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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You have just purchased the most widely accepted price guide in the field. Overstreet Publications enters it's 23rd year of price reporting in 1992! That means that the #1 edition of **THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE** is older than many of the comic fans that read Overstreet guides. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many fans that have helped make us the standard in comic book price reporting. **Make mine Overstreet!**

The first Overstreet **COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE** was published in 1970 and through the years has been the accepted price guide in the field. The first issue of **Overstreet's Comic Book Price Update** (supplement to the annual #12 guide) was published in the Fall of 1982. After a few years of publishing a mid-year Update, the comic market finally demanded a more frequent price report. The Update eventually became a bi-monthly and may even become a monthly publication in the near future.

GENERAL INFORMATION

About Pricing: The prices shown in this guide represent an honest and responsible evaluation of current market values. The prices represent an average of dealer retail prices compiled from data supplied by our **Board Of Special Advisors.** Prices often vary widely from region to region because supply and demand varies. Therefore, each seller should determine prices based in part by using this guide, and also by understanding his/her regional supply and demand factors.

The Listed Prices in this book, particularly on more expensive books, are a "moving average" of the market prices realized over the past month or two. Thus prices are constantly being recorded and averaged prior to the release of each Update. It is important for collectors to understand that since the Update price is an average, it will never be the same as the highest or lowest most recent sales price.

Collectors will, at some point, attempt to sell some or all of their acquisitions at a wholesale price to dealers. It is important to remember that **dealers buy comics in order to resell them** to other collectors. Therefore, dealers will always pay a higher percentage for issues that they think can be sold quickly and a much lower percentage for items that have a low demand. Dealers must always buy at a percentage that allows for their overhead plus a fair margin of profit. Most dealers will pay anywhere from 25-75% of the prices listed in this guide depending on inventory needs and local market conditions. **However, material from the past 10 to 15 years is readily available and dealers may only offer a very small amount (20% or less) or may not be interested at all.**

Pricing New Comics: This guide lists retail prices of current comic books. Titles that are listed with an asterisk have a value that may range *up to cover price* of current comics.

PRICING LOWER GRADES

Prices listed in this Guide are for comic books in **NEAR MINT** condition. The value of a comic in a lower grade will be a percentage (listed below) of the near mint value. To find the correct price spread for a specific book, consult the annual Overstreet Comic Book Price compute the price spread between the listed Good, Fine and Near Mint prices.

Near Mint	100%
Very Fine	69-75% of Update price
Fine	38-50% of Update price
Very Good	20-34% of Update price
Good	10-17% of Update price
Fair	5-12% of Update price

PRICING INDICATORS

+ = An issue that has increased in price since last
- = An issue that has decreased in price since last
H = A high demand issue that is currently in vogue

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A HISTORY OF COMIC BOOKS - HOW TO COLLECT

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A HISTORY OF COMIC BOOKS

1933—Funnies on Parade no #, the first comic book, was published. This was the very first comic book published in the modern format which reprinted the Sunday newspaper funnies.

1938—Action Comics #1, the most important comic book ever published, in which Superman first appeared. This title is still being published today and Superman is still the star.

1939—Detective Comics #27 appeared on the stands, with the premiere of *The Batman*. Superman #1 debuted in the Summer. Also this same year **Marvel Comics #1**, which introduced *The Human Torch* and *The Sub-Mariner*, was released.

1940—Flash Comics #1 (1/40), which introduced *The Flash* and *The Hawkman*, appeared. Then later that year, **Batman #1** was released.

1941—Captain Marvel Adventures #1 was released in March. Also, in March appeared **Captain America Comics #1**. **Sub-Mariner Comics #1** appeared in the Spring, while *The Green Lantern* received his own comic in the Fall.

1942—Wonder Woman #1 appeared on the stands in the Summer launching her into her own comic.

1956—Showcase #4, the intro and origin of the Silver Age *Flash* was released with a Sept-Oct. cover date. Many believe that this was the beginning of the Silver Age.

1959—*The Flash* gets his own title with **Flash #105**. And *The Green Lantern* first appears in **Showcase #22**.

1960—Green Lantern #1 and **Justice League of America #1** are both released.

1961—Brave and the Bold #34 introduces the Silver Age *Hawkman* while **Showcase #34** debuted *The Atom*. Later that year, **Fantastic Four #1** is released. **Showcase #4** and **Fantastic Four #1** are considered to be the two most important books of the Silver Age.

1962—The Incredible Hulk #1 first appears, and *The Atom* gets his own title, also. Later that year, *The Amazing Spider-Man* debuts in **Amazing Fantasy #15**.

1963—The Amazing Spider-Man #1, The Avengers #1 and **The X-Men #1** are released.

1964—Avengers #4 saw the revival of *Captain America*, while **Daredevil #1** and **Hawkman #1** were also released.

1966—Teen Titans #1 is released by DC Comics.

1968—Captain America #100, Captain Marvel #1, Doctor Strange #169, The Incredible Hulk #102, Iron Man #1, Nick Fury #1, The Silver Surfer #1 and **The Sub-Mariner #1** were all released this year by Marvel, starting a new era for Marvel Comics.

1970—Conan, The Barbarian #1 was released and has lasted over 20 years.

1972—Swamp Thing #1, with Bernie Wrightson art, is published. *The Ghost Rider* also debuts in **Marvel Spotlight #5**.

1974—*The Punisher* is introduced in **The Amazing Spider-Man #129**, along with *Wolverine* in **The Incredible Hulk #180**. These are two of Marvel's hottest characters today.

1977—Cerebus the Aardvark #1, one of the earlier independently published comics, is released. **Star Wars #1** is also released the same year.

1984—Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #1 is released. One of the more successful independents published.

1987—DC Comics starts the numbering all over with #1 on many of their long running titles such as **Flash, Superman** and **Wonder Woman.**

1990—Spider-Man #1, the biggest selling comic of all time, is published.

1991—X-Force #1 out sells **Spider-Man #1**. Then later the same year, **X-Men #1** out sells **X-Force #1** becoming the biggest selling comic.

HOW TO COLLECT COMICS

NEW COMICS—In today's rapidly expanding market, comic books are becoming more available to the reading public. Also, with the mass market exposure of comic book characters through television, print media and movies, young readers are exposed to the idea of collecting more than ever before. Although the best selection of comics are at comic specialty shops, they can also be found in book stores, grocery stores, convenience stores, toy stores, department stores and on the newsstand. If comics are not available locally, they can be ordered through one of the many mail order subscription services. Consult the annual **Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide** for a listing of these services.

Currently, new comics publishers are creating very colorful and exciting storylines and visual concepts for the collector. The novice collector should be aware that many of today's new first issues are billed as being a "Collector's Item First Issue." Unfortunately, many of these books never live up to this expectation. On the other hand, there are some that really do have potential and will go up in value over the short term. What makes a new comic valuable depends on the simple rule of supply and demand. Unpredictably, an artist or a new character may become very popular overnight, creating a much higher demand than the actual print run. When this happens, it is not unusual for the publisher to issue second and third printings of that issue, which are usually worth less than the original first printing. Hundreds of titles are published every month, with a few destined to become true collectors' items. The collector should also be aware that today's hot comics may cool down tomorrow. As with any active market, rapidly rising prices can also drop just as fast. Since most comic books are part of a continuing series, usually fans will collect the entire series of their favorite title. New comic books are a vital part of the market as they are constantly bringing in new readers to keep the hobby alive.

BACK ISSUE COMICS—The new collector soon learns that comic books have been around for a very long time. There has been an organized fan movement collecting old comics for decades. Used comics are available from comic specialty shops, mail order dealers, fellow collectors, flea markets, antique shops, mall shows and comic conventions.

Collector's supplies such as boxes, backing boards and bags are sold by comic shops and mail order services. There are ads in this Update and the annual **Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide** buying and selling old comics and supplies.

Many of the older comics are rare and can be expensive and difficult to find. It may take years to locate a particular book, so collectors soon learn to be patient in their quest.

Before purchasing used comics, collectors should learn how to grade. Grading is extremely important in determining value, as a book's condition dictates it's price. Comic books are very fragile, so proper handling and storage is a must. New comic book paper, if exposed to sunlight or heat for just a few hours will become brown and brittle. Inside pages should be checked for browning or brittleness. Brittle books should be avoided.

BUYING THROUGH THE MAIL—Most mail order dealers are reputable and offer a good selection of comics and quick service. You should ask dealers about their return policy if not satisfied. Most dealers allow books to be returned for any reason within a designated time period, but

the book must be returned in the same condition in which it was received. When ordering for the first time, you should select an inexpensive book. In this way you can check the dealer's grading, quickness and quality of service. It is always wise to ask for references and to check a dealer out before sending large sums of money through the mail. Never send cash. Compare prices before you buy. Prices and grading vary widely among dealers.

SET REALISTIC GOALS—Collecting comic books can be very expensive. The higher the grade and/or rarer the book, the higher the price. A typical collector is happy to get any decent copy of a book he seeks while the investor wants only the best condition. Whatever your goals are, you should set up a realistic budget and stick to it. Always buy the best condition that you can afford.

WHY COLLECT COMICS?—The illustrated four-color narrative is one of the most interesting and diverse types of entertainment available. This unique art form has affected millions of Americans for over a century. Comic books are still evolving as is collecting as a hobby, with new participants born every day. The subject matter and art form are endless. Household names such as Superman, Batman, Turtles, Crypt Keeper, Captain America, Uncle Scrooge, and The Flash all began in comic books. Many famous writers worked for comics such as, Mickey Spillane, Harlan Ellison, Ray Bradbury and Clive Barker, to name a few.

Every conceivable fictional or historical figure has appeared in comics. Most famous mystery writers' works have been adapted to the comic format. Of course, this medium has had a myriad of trendsetting artists for the enthusiast to enjoy. Alex Raymond, Will Eisner, Burne Hogarth, Hal Foster, Alex Schomburg, Windsor McCay, Elsie Segar, Jack Kirby, Siegel and Shuster, Bob Kane and hundreds more have thrilled us for decades.

There are many extremely rare key issues for the collector to pursue. There is something for every person's taste in this market, and, unlike other collectible fields, counterfeits are rarely a problem.

WHERE TO BUY AND SELL—The following two adzines contain ads buying and selling comics and related material:
The Comic Book Marketplace (monthly magazine), P.O. Box 180900, Coronado, CA 92178-0900. **The Comics Buyers Guide** (weekly tabloid), 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990.

For more detailed information on collecting, consult the annual **Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide.**

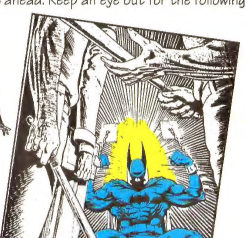
TERMINOLOGY

Many of the following terms and abbreviations are used in the comic book market and are explained here:

a—Story art; **a(i)**—Story art inks; **a(p)**—Story art pencils;
a(r)—Story art reprint.
Annual—A book that is published yearly.
Arrival date—Markings on a comic book cover (usually in pencil) made by either the newsstand dealer or the distributor. These markings denote the date the book was placed on the newsstand. Usually the arrival date is one or two months prior to the cover date.
B&W—Black and white art.
Back-up story—A short filler story at the end of the comic.
Bi-monthly—Published every two months.
Bi-weekly—Published every two weeks.
Brittleness—The final stage of paper deterioration.
c—Cover art; **c(i)**—Cover inks; **c(p)**—Cover pencils; **c(r)**—Cover reprint.
Cameo—When a character appears briefly in one or two panels.
CCA—Comics Code Authority (see definition below).
Centerfold—The two folded pages in the center of a comic at the terminal end of the staples.
Colorist—Artist that applies color to the black and white pen and ink art.
Comic book repair—When a tear, loose staple or centerfold has been mended without changing or adding to the original finish of the book. Repair may involve tape, glue or nylon gossamer and is easily detected. It is considered a defect.
Comic book restoration—Any attempt, whether professional or amateur, to enhance the appearance of a comic book. These procedures may include any or all of the following techniques: Recoloring, adding missing paper, stain, ink, dirt, tape removal, whitening, pressing out wrinkles, staple replacement, trimming, re-glossing, etc. Note: Unprofessional work can lower the value of a book. In all cases, a restored book can never be worth the same as an unrestored book in the same condition.
Comics Code Authority—In 1954 the major publishers joined together and formed a committee who set up guide lines for acceptable comic contents. It was their task to approve the contents of comics before publication.
Con—A Convention or public gathering of fans.
Debut—The first time that a character appears anywhere.
Double cover—An error in the binding process which results in two or more covers being bound to a single book. Multiple covers are not considered a defect.
Fanzine—An amateur fan publication.
File copy—A high grade comic originating from the publisher's file. Not all file copies are in pristine condition.
First app.—Same as debut.
Flashback—When a previous story is being recalled.
G. A.—Golden Age.
Golden Age (G. A.)—The period beginning with Action #1 (June, 1938) and ending with World War II in 1945.
I—Art inks.
Indicia—Publishers title, issue number, date, copyright and general information statement usually located on the inside front cover, facing page or inside back cover.
Infinity cover—Shows a scene that repeats itself into infinity.
Inker—Artist that does the inking on a comic.
Intro—Same as debut.
JLA—Justice League of America.
JLI—Justice League International.
JSA—Justice Society of America.
Logo—The title of a strip or comic book as it appears on the cover or title page.
LSH—Legion of Super-Heroes.
Marvel chipping—A defect that occurred during the trimming process of 1950s & 1960s Marvels which produced a ragged edge around the comic cover. Usually takes the form of a tiny chip or chips along the right-hand edge of the cover.
nd—No date.
nn—No number.
One-shot—When only one issue is published of a title, or when a series is published where each issue is a different title (i.e. Four Color).
Origin—The story which details the coming into existence or use of a SuperHero, or the Super Hero's powers.
Over Guide—When a comic book is priced at a value over guide list.
p—Art pencils.
Penciller—Artist that does the pencils on a comic.
Post-Golden Age—Comic books published between 1945 and 1950.
Post-Silver Age— Comic books published from 1969 to present.
Pre-Code—Comic books published before the CCA seal.
Pre-Golden Age—Comic books-published prior to Action #1 (June, 1938).
Pre-Silver Age—Comic books published between 1950 and Showcase #4 (1956).
Quarterly—Published every three months (four times a year).
R or r—Reprint.
S.A.—Silver Age.
Silver Age—Officially begins with Showcase #4 in 1956 and ends in 1969.
Title value—The total value of every issue under that title if they were all in Near Mint condition.
Under Guide—When a comic book is priced at a value less than guide list.
X-over—When one character crosses over into another's strip.

HOT PICKS BY OUR ADVISORS

In each issue, Overstreet's Comic Book Price Update lists books picked by our advisors that look as though they will become HOT books in the months ahead. Keep an eye out for the following:



Batman: Catwoman Defiant © DC
Batman: Shadow of the Bat © DC
Eclipso: Darkness Within #1 © DC
Guy Gardner #1 © DC
Infinity War #1 © Marvel
Spawn #1 © Todd McFarlane
Spider-Man Hologram Issues © Marvel
Spirits of Vengeance #1 © Marvel
Unity #1 © Valiant
Wildc.a.t.s. #1 © Jim Lee

Pictures:
Top Row: Batman: Catwoman Defiant © DC Eclipso: Darkness Within © DC, Batman: Shadow of the Bat © DC. **Second Row:** Unity © Valiant, Wildc.a.t.s. © Jim Lee. **Third Row (Center):** Infinity Wars © Marvel. **Fourth Row:** Spirits of Vengeance © Marvel, Spawn © Todd Mcfarlane. **Fifth Row:** Spider-Man Hologram Issues © Marvel, Guy Gardner © DC.

BATMAN RETURNS

This month marks the return to the silver screen of comics darkest hero. Batman returns to the sinister, dark city of Gotham where not one, but two of our favorite villians await him. Thomas Andre met up with influential Batman writer and editor Denny O'Neil at Wonder Con in Oakland and submits this month's Update interview.

Denny O'Neil is one of comics' most important writers. With Neal Adams he created the ***Green Lantern/Green Arrow*** *stories of the seventies which brought social relevance to comic books. In the late sixties he and Adams revamped* ***Batman****, then in it's camp phase due to the enormous popularity of the Batman television show. O'Neil and Adams took the Caped Crusader back to his roots in the original Bob Kane - Bill Finger stories of the thirties, making him again a lone, grim-visaged vigilante operating in a sinister, gothic universe. O'Neil is thus partly responsible for the phenomenal resurgence of* ***Batman*** *in the eighties which culminated in Frank Miller's avant garde graphic novel,* ***Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*** *and the 1989 blockbuster film,* ***Batman****. In 1986 O'Neil assumed editorship of* ***Batman****, overseeing all the comic book incarnations of the Caped Crusader. In this interview he discusses his work on* ***Batman*** *and gives us a preview of the Dark Knight sequel,* ***Batman Returns****, and the new* ***Batman*** *animated television series.*

What was your first work for DC?

The first writing I did for DC was for **Bomba, The Jungle Boy**; the first superhero I worked on was Steve Ditko's creation **The Creeper**. I also wrote for a lot of mystery and science fiction titles. Five of us had transferred over from Charlton Comics with Dick Giordano who had been our editor there. Dick became my editor at DC but quit after about a year. After he left I was introduced to Julie Schwartz. Julie was very suspicious of this long-haired guy wearing jeans and buccaneer shirts. Comics were an incredibly straight world then; everyone wore suits and ties to the office. The first job he offered me was **Batman** when it was still being done as camp. I didn't feel that I had the ability to write that kind of humor. Instead, I did the **Justice League**, a tenure lasting seventeen issues. I also wrote a couple of early **Green Lanterns**. One dealt with space

Batman Returns. Michael Keaton as the Caped Crusader with the new and improved Batmobile which can 'reduce it's size to travel through narrow spaces and . . . turns into a guided Batmissile."

opera - in fact, it was called *"The Phantom of the Space Opera."* My other early writing included some *Challengers of the Unknowns* and *Phantom Strangers*.

How did you gravitate to Batman?

After the TV show folded and I had some luck renovating **Green Lantern**, Julie offered **Batman** to me again, this time with a different set of rules. The camp thing was dead but they didn't know exactly what they were going to do with the strip. So, it was a real *tabla rasa*. I had just read some of the early stories and saw the potential for making **Batman** a dark, obsessed character again, rather than a comedian. The problem with camp was that it was a one-line joke: "Hey, look how silly the stuff I loved when I was six years old really is." I couldn't see anywhere to go from there. Before that **Batman** had been a kind of scoutmaster, what I call a "daylight character", walking down the street waving to everyone. There was also a lot of time travel and fantasy, which took him out of the grim realities of the urban metropolis. I went back and looked at the early stuff when there was no Robin; this period lasted for only a little more than a year —so the series turned bright pretty quickly. Neal also went back to the *Film Noir* ambience and the long-eared, malevolent-looking Batman in his artwork. I would usually write a script with no notion of who was going to do the art for it. I had already done **Batman** with another artist, a story with a New Orleans Jazz theme, a kind of music that was a passion of Julie's and became a passion of mine. After that, Neal did *"Secret of the Waiting Graves"* (**Detective** #395 (Jan., 1970)] with me, the first of our collaborations and the story which revived the darknight **Batman**. His art on that story much exceeded everyone's expectations; he completely captured the direction I wanted to go in and did a precise rendering in graphics of what I tried to do in prose.

What happened to Robin at this time?

Julie had the idea of sending him to college. This gave us an option —if a story needed Robin we could bring him back. I started playing with the notion of **Batman** as a solo character to reinforce the image of a lone, mysterious vigilante. I thought the father-son relationship **Batman** had with Robin mitigated against the darker mood I wanted to invoke.

You also revamped the Joker, didn't you?

I wasn't thinking about revamping anything. I was thinking about writing strong stories and stories that were fun to do. Although he had become a rather harmless buffoon, the Joker had originally been a homicidal maniac. I thought the idea of a killer clown was a very primal image and would make for a good story. So, I wrote *"The Joker's Five-Way Revenge"* [**Batman** #251]. Because it had an unusually high number of murders in it I wasn't sure we were going to get away with it, but we didn't hear a peep. For fun, we made Steve Mitchell who's an inker here, one of the guys who gets murdered.

How do you feel about being Batman's head editor?

It's been the most interesting job in comics, possibly in publishing. I've had a ring side seat at a major media event. The **Batman** movie ushered in a new wave of *Bat-mania* unseen since the sixties. He's also a character I'm very sympathetic to. I discovered years ago that I function best as a writer of stories with non-gods. I did **Superman** for a year—he's the quintessential mythic character —but I find it easier to work on a more human scale. Also, as a sub-text from the sixties, I'm not comfortable with establishment characters and **Superman** is a chamber of commerce, Republican type.

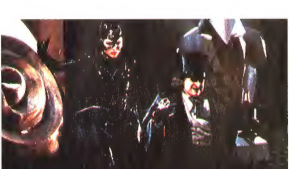
What accounts for the popularity of the Dark Knight character?

Comics are folk art and they reflect what's going on in the minds of the audience. They have been a pretty accurate mirror, though a funhouse mirror, which reflects as well as distorts the moods of the times. The darkness in **Batman** reflects the sensibilities of the age. Look at the polls: people are pretty pessimistic about the world, and if you live in a big city, you don't have to do anything but walk three blocks to see reasons to be pessimistic. **Superman** is not as popular because he is a more optimistic character.

Let's talk about Batman Returns. How is it credited?

It will be directed once again by Tim Burton,from a Dan Waters/Wesley Strick script. Sam Hamm, who wrote the first movie, will also have his name on it. It's produced by Denise Di Novi with Larry Franco (of *Starman*) as co-producer. Bo Welch, who worked with Burton on *Beetlejuice* and *Edward Scissorhands*, is the production designer and Tom Duffield and Rick Heinrichs are the art directors. Jon Peters and Peter Guber, who headed up the first film, are listed as executive producers. Michael Keaton reprises his role as **Batman** and Danny De Vito (*Twins, Other People's Money*) is the Penguin. Michelle Pfeiffer (*The Fabulous Baker Boys, The Russia House*) plays Selina Kyle, a.k.a. the Catwoman. Christopher Walken, noted for his roles as a power-mad industrialist in the James Bond film *A View to a Kill* and a murderous alien in Ridley Scott's sci fi masterpiece *Blade Runner*, will play the villain Max Shreck.

The sets look like they were influenced by German Expressionism.



Michelle Pfeiffer and Danny De Vito as The Catwoman and The Penguin in Batman Returns.

Yes. This goes back to the early **Batman** art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson. It's cartooney and exaggerated; you'd have to call it expressionist rather than impressionist or realist. You can see the expressionist influence in the sense of decay pervading the city. In contrast to the first film in which the city was imposing, oppressive, and manifested a very Puritan kind of architecture, Gotham is falling apart. Buildings are depicted at odd angles, propped up, disintegrating. Gotham City is a character in **Batman**, the city has the same psychological weight as a character. This Gotham is hostile and hellish; it's a city that doesn't like you, reminiscent of Chicago or New York. In fact, one of the sets is a nightmare version of the Big Apple's Rockefeller Center with its ice rink and mammoth Soviet-styled statues of Peoples Republic workers. All glass and glitter, Gotham's plaza suggests an upscale development gone to seed, its cheery Christmas tree standing in ironic counterpoint to the gloom and decay suffocating the city. The names also have an expressionist feel. Max Shreck, the Christopher Walken character, is named after the actor who played the vampire *Nosferatu* in the German silent film of the same name.

How did you like De Vito's characterization of the Penguin?

When I heard he was cast I thought, "Yeah, they got that one right." I can't think of anyone I'd rather have play the **Penguin**. They found a way to do the **Penguin** that works. I've never quite succeeded in making him a formidable villain. He's a cartooney character who isn't very frightening. There's nothing menacing about a short, fat guy with a weird nose. His comical appearance has made it natural to play him camp. Burgess Meredith did a great job playing the **Penguin** on the TV series. But, the movie guys found an approach that makes him both sinister and grotesque, flamboyant, and exaggerated. Part of their success is due to the fact that he's not a one-dimensional character although he's a homicidal maniac, he's also lonely, frustrated, and outcast, which makes you feel sorry for him. A part of him wants to live a normal life, but he is so grotesque that this isn't possible. This goes back to Kane and Finger's first **Penguin** story in which his motive for turning to crime is his rejection and humiliation by society. De Vito does a voice for the Penguin I didn't expect: it's not bird-like at all but more of an animalistic growl. It's very effective. Yet, he looks like a penguin and there are bird elements in the story. In one scene he drives up in his penguin vehicle accompanied by a squadron of live penguins with bombs on their backs.

How about the film's interpretation of the Catwoman?

Michelle Pfeiffer is beautiful; she's slinky and sexy as the Catwoman. I was impressed with the scripting of her role. She had some neat lines, no pun intended. It's a nice job of writing; they had to get two origins into the first third of the movie and they

Batman, The animated series, on the Fox Network's Fall Schedule.

Batman, the animated series, will feature voices from Mark Hamill, Richard Moll, and Adrienne Barbeau as Catwoman.

did it without disrupting the flow of action. It's different from any of the Catwoman origins we've done. Like the **Penguin**, she is not an unsympathetic character. You have to root for her. The story has a strong feminist flavor. She has legitimate grievances: she works for Max Shreck who is the quintessential male chauvinist pig and an oppressive boss. But even he is not entirely unsympathetic in that he loves his son.

How does she compare to the comic book Catwoman?

There were things they did with her I wish we had thought of. Over the years we've had five or six different interpretations of the **Catwoman**. Like **Batman**, she hasn't been a consistent character. The film follows the comics in portraying a love-hate relationship between her and **Batman**. In fact, there are two romances in the story, one between Selena Kyle and Bruce Wayne and one between **Batman** and **Catwoman**. There is something very sexy about a genuinely tough woman, and this **Catwoman** is no pushover. She does acrobatic flips, is a master of martial arts, and wields a mean bull-whip. The screen hasn't seen such a combination of sexiness and martial artistry since Emma Peele of *The Avengers*.

Doesn't Paul Reubens, (a.k.a. Pee Wee Herman) have a cameo role in the film?

Reubens appears as the **Penguin**'s father. It's a very brief appearance. She may have one line, or none at all.

Does Batman wield any new Bat-technology?

Yes. There's a Bat-skiboat which can spiral through Gotham's sewer system where the entrance to the **Penguin**'s lair is located, a computer-programmed Batarang, and a more awesome Batmobile which can reduce its size so that it can travel through narrow spaces and which turns into a guided Bat-missile.

What are your plans for comic book adaptations of Batman Returns?

We are releasing **Catwoman** and **Penguin** specials. *Catwoman Defiant* and *Penguin Triumphant* and a **Batman Returns** adaptation that coincides with the movie's release in early June. Each is self-contained and in the Prestige Format. John Ostrander wrote the Penguin book and Jo Staton and Bob Smith did the art. In it the **Penguin** decides that he is such a brilliant criminal that if he used his intelligence in the stock market he'd get just as rich and wouldn't have to go to jail. So, he goes straight. But, he gets grandiose ideas and wants the nicest home in Gotham City and takes over Wayne Manor. **Batman** allows him to do this because he's convinced that the **Penguin**'s compulsion to prove he's smarter than everyone else will lead him into crime and that if he's in Wayne Manor it will be easy to keep an eye on him.

UPDATE INTERVIEW

The Catwoman novel was written by Peter Milligan with art by Tom Grindberg and inks by Dick Giordano. Like Milligan's other stuff, it's fairly dark. It concerns someone who is obsessed with destroying beauty and captures the **Catwoman** for that purpose. **Batman** is a character in both novels but the focus is primarily on the villains.

I wrote the **Batman Returns** adaptation; the art is by Steve Erwin and José Luis Garcia Lopez. Because the story already exists, some writers think they are stealing money when you give them this kind of assignment. But, writing adaptations is trickier than it seems. The problem is that it is a two hour film and not everything will fit into the fifty-four to fifty-six pages you are allotted. You have to get rid of a lot of stuff that's in the movie. The trick is to locate the movie's spine, then the key scenes, and then the key moments within those scenes, and make an educated guess about what visual bits will be memorable. Sometimes something is not intrinsic to the story but is a great line or good visual so you put it in. It's a very concentrated and focused example of the comic book writing craft. In this case, I used as much of the original dialogue as possible, which turned out to be ninety-eight percent.

I understand that there is a new Batman animated TV series in the offing?

Yes. It's scheduled to start in the Fall. It will be on the Fox Network in the after-school daily programming block. I'm very impressed with it and I haven't been impressed with television before. I'm writing several scripts for it myself. I'm not doing this for the money; I want to be part of the show.

In the past, animated superheros have looked like paper dolls-static and lifeless. It's difficult to create believable human beings using limited animation. The new series overcomes this problem by being allusive and expressionistic. It uses shadows and contours to create a gothic aura. **Batman** is presented as a massive, dark presence and Gotham City as a brooding and sinister set. This Gotham combines diverse stylistic influences, Anton Furst's designs from the first **Batman** film, Art Deco, and the Fleischer Superman cartoons, to create a moody, expressionistic city. In Gotham, there is never a bright day and crimes *always* take place at night.

They're aiming at a childrens' audience but I'd be surprised if the series doesn't also appeal to adults. We showed the first one to retailers in Los Angeles and they were knocked out by it. I had the same reaction when I saw the first **Two-Face** episode; I wondered why we hadn't thought of doing him that way. The script was by Allen Burnett who is one of the producers. In the comics, the scarring of **Harvey Dent's** face made him monstrously ugly and transformed him into the evil **Two-Face**. In Allen's version, the scarring is a trigger: it brings out the repressed side of his personality rather than its being the cause of his conversion to crime. We are told that **Two-Face** was an abused child who has had to contain his rage and that even before the scarring is subject to violent mood swings. There is a scene with a psychiatrist in which this is explained.

All the familiar villains will be in it—the **Joker**, the **Penguin**, **Catwoman**, **Clayface**. Mark Hamill , of *Star Wars* fame, will be the voice of the **Joker**, Richard Moll of *Night Court* is attorney **Harvey Dent** and his alter ego **Two-Face**, and Adrienne Barbeau is **Catwoman**. An unknown is doing **Batman**. **Robin** appears in about a third of them. He is sent off to college like Dick Grayson was in the comics. Though Robin's secret identity is Grayson, his costume will resemble more that of the current Robin in the comics, Tim Drake.

There are some really funny moments in the series. The first completed episode is one about **Man-Bat** and there is a scene in which the authorities believe **Batman** has thrown a guard out a window. As **Batman** is about to leave **Alfred** says, "Throwing guards out the window tonight are we?" "No," **Batman** answers, "I only do that with *butlers*, Alfred." This is organic humor that grows out of the characters' personalities rather than camp humor that makes fun of them.

The scripts have been done by people who understand comics. Marty Pasko and Allen Burnett went to New York and spent hours in our library reading fifty years of **Batman** comics. Veteran comics writers who are doing scripts include Marv Wolfman who is working on a **Clayface** episode and Len Wein who is scripting the first **Talia** story, *"Into the Den of the Death Dealers"* [**Batman** #232]. I'm doing an adaptation of a few of my own comic book stories such as the one that introduces **Batman**'s arch-nemesis, **Ra's al Ghul**, and the one in which **Batman** battles **Ra's** in the desert *"Daughter of the Demon"* [**Batman** #235] and *"The Demon Lives Again"* [**Detective** #411]. I'm beating my brains out trying to come up with a way to make a seamless whole out of these over the weekend.

Batman, The Animated Series premieres this fall on Fox.

CONVENTION CALENDAR

To list your convention, trade fair, show, etc. for September and October in the next Update, send information to Overstreet Publications, 780 Hunt Cliff Drive, Cleveland, TN 37311. The deadline is July 15. Update #23 will be released in mid-August.

JUNE

19 Atlanta, GA. ATLANTA FANTASY FAIR XVIII. The Hyatt Atlanta Airport and Georgia Convention and Trade Center. June 19 - 21. Contact: The Atlanta Fantasy Fair, 4175 Ellen Court, Lithonia, GA 30058. (404) 985-1230.

20 Nashville, TN. COMIC SHOW. Redeway Inn, I-40 & Briley Parkway. 9 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Michael Bray, 563 Chimney Top Drive, Antioch, TN 37013. (615) 731-4859.

21 Brainerd, MN. BASEBALL AND COMIC SHOWS. Holiday Inn, Highway 371, South. 9 AM - 4:30 PM. Contact: Lantern News, Kevin J. Bergson, (701) 235-2262.

Tysons Corner, VA. COMIC BOOK SHOW. Tysons Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Drive. 10 AM - 6 PM. Admission: $2.00. Contact: Capital Associates, 5052 Head Ct., Fairfax, VA 22032. (703) 425-8763.

27 Johnston, IA. BASEBALL CARDS, COMICS, AND MORE SHOW. Village Square Mall, 5800 Merle Hay Road. Regular Mall Hours, June 27 & 28. Admission: Free. Contact: Stacey Young, (515) 573-4187.

Southfield, MI. COMICS CAFE COMICS CON. Southfield Convention Center in the Days Hotel, 17017 West 9 Mile. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $9.00. Special Guests: John Byrne, Pat Broderick, Joe Lee, Gregory Wright, Steven Butler, Angel Medina. Contact: Comics Cafe, 519 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale, MI 48220. (313) 543-2525.

Woodbridge, NJ. COMIC BOOKS / SCI-FI COLLECTIBLES CONVENTION. St. Demetrius Convention Center, 80 Roosevelt Ave. 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Admission: $2.00 adults, $1.00 Children. Contact: East Coast Promotions, (908) 805-5852.

Quincy, IL. SUMMER COMICS SHOW. Redeway Inn, 300 Gardner Expressway. Admission: Free. Contact: John Cockrell, (217) 223-9002.

Canton, OH. AKRON-CANTON COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Holiday Inn, I-77 & Arlington Road (Exit 120). 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $3.00 (6 & under free). Contact: Jeff Harper, 2428 36th St. NW, Canton, OH 44709. (216) 493-0488.

Allentown, PA. ALLENTOWN COMIC BOOK SHOW. Holiday Inn West, I-78 & Rt. 100. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Comicquest Productions (215) 435-5223.

JULY

1 Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive S. PM. - 9:30 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

3 Oakland, CA. FIRST ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY COMIC CON. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive. July 3 - 5. Fri. 12 - 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM - 7 PM, Sun. 11 AM - 6 PM. Contact: Dan or Carolyn, (510) 625-0975.

4 Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

Hagerstown, MD. REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Ramada Hotel, 910 Dual Hwy. (Rt. 40). 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt. 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159.

Chattanooga, TN. SPORTS CARD & COMIC CON. Best Western South, 6710 Ringgold Rd., I-75 at East Ridge. 10 AM - 6 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Faye or Tony, P. O. Box 225, Shannon, GA 30172. (706) 364-3780 or (706) 235-7822.

5 West Hartford, CT. FIRST EVER WEST HARTFORD COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. American Legion Hall, 18 Memorial Road (Next to police station). 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Cosmic Conventions, 523-8920.

Washington, DC. REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Armory Place, 925 Wayne Ave, Silver Spring, MD. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt. 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159.

Dedham, MA. BASEBALL CARD & COMIC BOOK SHOW. Holiday Inn. 9 AM - 3 PM. Admission: $1.00 (under 8 free). Contact: Marc Rosenfeld, P. O. Box 926, Randolph, MA 02368. (617) 963-1075.

Bel Air, MD. BASEBALL CARD AND COMIC BOOK SHOW. American Legion Post #39, 500 Conowingo Road. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Mike, (410) 879-5316 or Dan, (410) 838-4309.

Silver Spring, MD. REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Armory Place, 925 Wayne Ave. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt. 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159.

Tinton Falls, NJ. MONMOUTH COUNTY COMIC CONVENTION. Holiday Inn, Parkway Exit 105. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $2.00. Contact: Ruth Campbell, P. O. Box 1090, Ocean Gate, NJ 08740. (908) 269-9696.

Philadelphia, PA. SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Holiday Inn at King of Prussia Mall. 11 AM - 4:30 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921. (410) 398-6685.

8 Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive S. PM. - 9:30 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

11 Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

Nashville, TN. ALL-STAR COMIC & CARD CONVENTION '92. Ramada Inn at Opryland. 2401 Music Valley Dr. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: All-Star Promotion, Patty Speck or Dennis Swartz, P. O. Box 41311, Nashville, TN 37204. (615) 352-9802.

Nashville, TN. BLOW-OUT SPORTS CARDS & COMIC BOOKS SHOW. Quality Inn, Briley Pkwy. & Intl. Dr. July 11 - 12. 9 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Steve Dillard, 1020 Summa Hts. Rd., Kingston Springs, TN 37082. (615) 952-4168.

Murfreesboro, TN. COMIC BOOK SHOW. Holiday Inn, I-24 at Hwy. 96 exit 78. July 11 - 12. Sat. 10 AM - 6 PM. Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $2.00. Contact: Tom Davis or April Myers, Showhiree Productions, Chambersburg, PA 17201. (800) 283-9435.

Galveston, TX. 4TH ANNUAL COMIC AND CARDS CONVENTION. Moody Civic Center, 2106 Seawall Blvd. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Comic & Cards Galore, (409) 945-9231.

Seattle, WA. INTER CON '92. Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, Seattle Center (on Mercer Street). July 11 - 12. 10:30 AM - 5 PM. Admission: 1 day-$7.00, 2 day-$10.00. Contact: Inter Con, P. O. Box 2043, Kirkland, WA 98083. (206) 822-5709 or (206) 827-5329.

12 Crown Point, IN. CROWN POINT'S MONTHLY CARD AND COMIC SHOW. 1410 N. Main. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Marilyn Hall, 417 Helen Court, Crown Point, IN 46307. (219) 663-8561.

Baton Rouge, LA. BASEBALL CARD & COMIC BOOK SHOW. Holiday Inn South, I-12 and Airline Highway. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Tony Barcellona, 22109 McHost Rd., Zachary, LA 70791. (504) 654-6228.

Towson, MD. SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Quality Inn, Beltway, exit 26 S. 11 AM - 4:30 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921. (410) 398-6685.

Royal Oak, MI. ENCORE-CON COMIC BOOK SHOW. American Legion Hall, 1815 Rochester Road (9 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.50. Contact: Michael Goldstar, 19585 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 231, Southfield, MI 48076. (313) 350-2633.

Wallkill Lake, MT. AND C COMIC SHOW. Chuckers Hall, 1172 North Frontie Trail (1/4 mile east of South Commercial). 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: Tim, (213) 625-1295.

Spotswood, NJ. SPOTSWOOD FIRE HOUSE SPORTS CARD & COMIC BOOK SHOW. Main Street. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: J & R Cards, (966) 521-4772.

Woodbridge, NJ. REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Sheraton, 515 St. 1 South. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt. 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159.

Middletown, NY. BASEBALL CARDS AND COMICS. Middletown Howard Johnson's, 501 Route 211 East. 6 PM - 10 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: F & M Baseball Cards, P. O. Box 4084, Middletown, NY 10940. (914) 344-2055.

St. Clairsville, OH. OHIO VALLEY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Eagle's Hall, I-70 & exit 218. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $2.50 (6 and under free). Contact: Jeff Harper, 2025 36th St. NW, Canton, OH 44709. (216) 493-0488.

15 Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive S. PM. - 9:30 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

16 Watertown, MA. COLLECTOR FEST. Watertown Mall, 550 Arsenal Street. July 16 - 19. Regular Mall Hours. Admission: Free. Contact: B.B. Cooperkarts, Bill's Card Shop, 796 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. (617) 289-8662.

Woonsocket, RI. SPORTS CARD & COMIC BOOK SHOW. Elks Hall, 380 Social Street. 6 PM - 10 PM. Contact: Bill Boyda, B & B Sports Cards, 1025 Cass Ave., Box 1023, Woonsocket, RI 02895. (401) 766-0534.

17 Memphis, TN. MEMPHIS FANTASY CON. Radisson Hotel, July 17 - 19. Contact: Memphis Fantasy Con, 4730 Poplar, Memphis, TN 38117.

18 Pasadena, CA. PASADENA COMIC BOOK EXPO. Pasadena Convention Center, 300 E. Green Street. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $2.00. Contact: Undercover Comics, (818) 564-1361.

Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive S. PM. - 9:30 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

Colin Nick, NJ. SOFTBALL, FLEA MARKET, AND COMIC SHOW. Mead Weston Sports Complex, Route 34. 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: NWS Enter. MM-8-15, Colin Nesh, NJ 07722. (908) 577-2445.

Seaside Heights, NJ. JERSEY SHORE COMIC CONVENTION. American Legion Post #351. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $2.00. Contact: Ruth Campbell, P. O. Box 1090, Ocean Gate, NJ 08740. (908) 269-9696.

Dayton, OH. REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Holiday Inn, I-75 exit 50A. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt. 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159.

Martin, TN. CARD & COMIC SHOW. John Deere Bldg., Highway 45 Bypass. 8 AM - 5 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Les Downing, (901) 587-6753.

Dallas, TX. DALLAS MINICON. Parkway Hilton Hotel, 4801 LeBlc at Dallas Parkway. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: $2.00. Contact: Building Productions, P. O. Box 820610, Dallas, TX 75382. (214) 990-4305.

Tyson's Corner, VA. SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Dr. 11 AM - 4:30 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921. (410) 398-6685.

Virginia Beach, VA. GREAT AMERICAN 1ST. Great American Outlet Mall, 3750 Virginia Beach Blvd. July 18 - 19. Sat. 10 AM - 6 PM. Sun. 12:30 AM - 6 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Robert D. Earhart, Jr., (804) 499-9691.

Madison, WI. MADISON COLLECTIBLES FAIRE SHOW & SALE. South Towne Mall, 2301 West Broadway. July 18-19. Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun. 11 AM - 5 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Hank Luttrell, 2206 Country Rocks, 109 E. Main Street, Madison, WI 53703. (608) 251-6226.

19 Clawson, MI. CLAWSON COMIC AND CARD CONVENTION. Knights of Columbus, 870 N. Main. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact: John Green, 22828 Sharrow Warren, MI 48089. (313) 779-2407.

Fredonia, NY. WESTERN NY COMIC BOOK, BASEBALL CARD, AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW. Masonic Lodge, 321 E. Main St. 10 AM - 3 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Stanwind Comics, P. O. Box 84, Fredonia, NY 14063. (716) 672-2911.

Renkenkoma, NY. ISLAND NOSTALGIA CARD & COMIC SHOW. Macarthur Airport, 3445 Veterans Memorial Hwy. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: 75c. Contact: Dennis, (516) 724-7422.

Providence, RI. PRO-CON. Holiday Inn- Downtown, Atwells Avenue at I-95. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.50. Contact: Bob or Rick Assainte, Ocean State Comics & Baseball Cards, 1048 Mineral Springs Ave, North Providence, RI 02904. (401) 728-0753.

22 Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive S. PM. - 9:30 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

23 Leominster, MA. COLLECTOR FEST. Searstown Mall, Route 2 exit 33 and Route 190. July 23 - 26. Regular Mall Hours. Admission: Free. Contact: Bill Cavaoletti, Bill's Card Shop, 796 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. (617) 289-8662.

25 Walnut, CA. FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19465 E. Walnut Drive. 10 AM - 5 PM. Admission: Free. Contact: Frank or Jim, 19465 E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7492.

West Covina, CA. A MALL COMIC BOOK SHOW. Eastland Shopping Center, Citrus Avenue. July 25 - 26. Sat. 10 AM - 6 PM, Sun. None - 5 PM. Contact: Derek M. Berthwick Show Productions, P.

CONVENTION CALENDAR

Nov 12th, West Covina, CA 91793 (818) 913-6466

Calmeville, GA SPORTS CARD & COMIC CON. Holiday Inn, 726 Jesse Jewell Parkway. 10 AM - 6 PM Admission $1.00 Contact Faye or Tony, P. O. Box 225, Shannon, GA 30172. (706) 284-3788 or (706) 235-7422

Harvey, IL MIDWEST SHOWS. South Side Expedition Center, I-80 & Halsted behind Holiday Inn. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission $1.00. Contact Rodagod Productions or Midwest Shows, (708) 799-3029 or (708) 496-2113

Bayville, NJ BAYVILLE FIRST AID SQUAD COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Bayville First Aid Building, Route 9 and Station Road. Contact (908) 269-4327

Hillsborough, NJ RELAITY COMIC BOOK & COMICS CONVENTION. Hillsborough Fire Company #2, 375 Rt. 206. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission $1.50. Contact: Anthony Grimando, T.J.'s World of Stuff, P. O. Box 23, Dunellen, NJ 08812-0023 (908) 968-5886

Harrisburg, PA BEAUTY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Best Western (formerly Ville Inn). I-83 exit 18A. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159

Wilmington, DE SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Sheraton Inn, 4727 Concord Pike. 11 AM - 4:30 PM Admission: $3.00 Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 398-6685

Livonia, MI X-TRAVA CON COMIC BOOK SHOW. Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Rd. (between 7 & 8 mile road). 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $1.50. Contact Michael Goldman, 19705 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 233, Southfield, MI 48076. (313) 350-3515

Wall-Eze Sales, MT CARD & COMIC SHOW. Chucker's Hall. 1172 North Pontiac Trail (1/4 mile east of South Commerce) 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $1.00 Contact: Tim, (313) 623-1299

Toms River, NJ OCEAN COUNTY COMIC CONVENTION. Knights of Columbus #351, Carteret Avenue at Bay Blvd. 10 AM - 4:30 PM Admission $1.50 Contact Ruth Campbell, P. O. Box 1090, Ocean Gate, NJ 08740. (908) 269-9486

Middletown NY BASEBALL CARDS AND COMICS. Middletown Howard Johnson's, 551 Route 211 East. 6 PM - 10 PM Admission: Free Contact P & M Baseball Cards, P. O. Box 6086, Middletown, NY 10941 (914) 344-2055

Dunne Park (Queens), NY BASEBALL CARDS AND COMIC BOOKS AND AUCTION. A Gordon Webster Amusement Group Hall, 107-10 Rockaway Blvd. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission $1.00 Contact Joseph Carnana, 134-32 130th Ave., Ozone Park, NY 11420 (718) 845-7680

York, PA YORK COMICON X. Holiday Inn, Intersection of I-83 and Route 30. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission $3.00 Contact Ned or Bill Comic Connection, Delco Plaza Mall, 1201 Carlisle Rd., York, PA 17402. (717) 843-0211

Warwick, RI WARWICK CONFEDERATES SHOW. Howard Johnsons Lodge (Main Ballroom), 20 Jefferson Blvd., exit 15 off of I-95. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $1.00. Contact J.A.S. Promotions, Jonathon Sweet, 5 Milford Street, Providence, RI 02909 (401) 944-9194

Walnut, CA FRANK AND SON COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Frank and Son Warehouse, 19605 E. Walnut Drive S.PM - 9:30 PM Admission Free Contact Frank or John 909/ E. Walnut Drive North, Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 594-7401

Springfield, MA COLLECTOR FEST. Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road. July 30 - August 2 Regular Mall Hours. Admission: Free Contact: Bill Gouvalaris, Bill's Card Stop, 766 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 (617) 289-1662

AUGUST

Washington, DC REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION Howard Johnsons Hotel, 2650 Pennsylvania Ave. (Route 50) 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $3.00 Contact Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt. 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159

Cleveland, TN SPORTS CARD & COMIC CON. Holiday Inn, North. I-75 at TN 60, exit 25. 10 AM - 6 PM Admission $1.00 Contact Faye or Tony, P. O. Box 225, Shannon, GA 30172. (706) 284-3788 or (706) 235-7422

Arlington, VA REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Howard Johnsons, 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy. (Route 1) 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159

Arlington, VA SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Ramada Westpark (across the Key Bridge) 11 AM - 4:30 PM. Admission: $3.00 Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 398-6685

Baltimore, MD REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Sheraton Elm Rd at BWI Airport. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $3.00 Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159

Silver Spring, MD SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Avenue. 11 AM - 4:30 PM. Admission: $3.00 Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 398-6685

Dedham, MA COLLECTOR FEST. Dedham Mall. August 6 - 9 Regular Mall Hours. Admission Free Contact Bill Gouvalaris, Bill's Card Stop, 766 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 (617) 289-1662

Dallas, TX DALLAS FANTASY FAIR. Dallas Market Hall. August 7 - 9. Contact Larry Lankford or Curt Hardaway, (214) 350-8308.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada CARDCOM '92. Kinsmen Sports Centre, 9100 Wallerdale Hill. August 7 - 9, 10 AM - 7 PM Sat & Sun, 9 AM - 6 PM. Contact: Stan Printchuck. (403) 444-5854 #4710

Nashville, TN ALL-STAR COMIC & CARD CONVENTION '92. Ramada Inn at Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Dr. August 8 & 9. Sat 9 AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM - 5PM. Admission $1.00 Contact All-Star Promotions, Patty Speck or Dennis Swartz, P. O. Box 41311, Nashville, TN 37204 (615) 352-9802

Enfield, CT COLLECTIBLES SHOW. Hartley Hotel, Exit 49 off of I-91. Contact Dick Sikes, P. O. Box 3092, Springfield, MA 01101 (413) 781-0995

Beaumont, IL FOR COMIC LOVERS ONLY. Horizon Skyline Room. 6925 N. Mannheim Rd. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.00. Contact Midwest Shows, (709) 496-8881

Royal Oak, MI ENCORE-CON COMIC BOOK SHOW. American Legion Hall, 1415 Rochester Road. 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $1.50. Contact: Michael Goldman, 19705 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 233, Southfield, MI 48076. (313) 350-2633

Walled Lake, MI CARD & COMIC SHOW. Chucker's Hall, 1172 North Pontiac Trail (1/4 mile east of South Commerce) 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $1.00 Contact: Tim, (313) 623-1299

Beamerd, MN BASEBALL AND COMIC SHOWS. Holiday Inn, Highway 371, South. 9 AM - 4:30 PM Contact: Lantern News, Kevin J. Bergson, (701) 235-2562

Charlotte, NC REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Ramada Airport, I-77 exit 7 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt. 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159

Bordentown, NJ SHOWPLACE FOR COLLECTORS. Days Inn, Route 206 No. Turnpike exit 7 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission: $2.00 Contact: Ruth Campbell, P. O. Box 1090, Ocean Gate, NJ 08740. (908) 269-9486

Spotswood, NJ SPOTSWOOD FIRE HOUSE SPORTS CARD & COMIC BOOK SHOW. Main Street. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission $1.00 Contact J & R Cards, (908) 521-1772

Woodbridge, NJ REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION. Sheraton, 515 Rt. 1 South. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $3.00. Contact Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159

Middletown, NY BASEBALL CARDS AND COMICS. Middletown Howard Johnson's, 551 Route 211 East. 6 PM - 10 PM Admission: Free Contact P & M Baseball Cards, P. O. Box 6086, Middletown, NY 10940. (914) 344-2055

Philadelphia, PA SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Holiday Inn at King of Prussia Mall. 11 AM - 4:30 PM. Admission $3.00. Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 398-6685

Seaside Heights, NJ JERSY SHORE COMIC CONVENTION. American Legion Post #351 10 AM - 5 PM Admission $2.00. Contact Ruth Campbell, P. O. Box 1090, Ocean Gate, NJ 08740. (908) 269-9486

South Plainfield, NJ WORLD OF CARDS & COMICS CONVENTION. Middlesex Mall. Hadley Road & Stelton Rd. August 15 - 16. Sat 10 AM - 9 PM. Sun. 11 AM - 5 PM Admission Free Contact Anthony Grimando, T.J.'s World of Stuff, P. O. Box 23, Dunellen, NJ 08812-0023 (908) 968-5886

Towson MD SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW. Quality Inn. Beltway, exit 26 S. 11 AM - 4: 30 PM. Admission $3.00. Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 398-6685

Nashville TN BLOW-OUT SPORTS CARDS & COMIC BOOKS SHOW. Quality Inn, Briley Pkwy & Intl. Dr. July 11 - 12. 9 AM - 5 PM Admission $1.00 Contact Steve Dillard, 1020 Sunset Hills Rd., Kingston Springs, TN 37082 (615) 952-6420

Manchester-Bedford, NH COLLECTOR FEST. Bedford Mall, Route 3 & 3A. August 28 - 23. Regular Mall Hours. Admission: Free Contact Bill Gouvalaris, Bill's Card Stop, 766 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 (617) 289-1662

Wenonscott, RI SPORTS CARD & COMIC BOOK SHOW. Elks Hall, 380 Social Street 6 - 10 PM. Admission: $1.00 Contact: B & F Sports Cards, Bill Bryda, 1023 Cass Ave., Box 1921, Woonsocket, RI 02895 (401) 769-1921

Huntsville, AL SPORTS CARD & COMIC CON. Days Inn, 2201 North Memorial Parkway. 10 AM - 6 PM Admission $1.00 Contact Faye or Tony, P. O. Box 225, Shannon, GA 30172. (706) 284-3788 or (706) 235-7422

Hillside, IL COMIC BOOK AND BASEBALL CARD SHOW. Hillside Holiday Inn, I-290 between Wolf & Mannheim roads. 10 AM - 3 PM Admission $1.00 Contact Graham Crackers, (708) 358-4110

Walled Lake, MI CARD & COMIC SHOW. Chucker's Hall, 1172 North Pontiac Trail (1/4 mile east of South Commerce) 10 AM 4 PM Admission $1.00. Contact: Tim, (313) 623-1299

Somerset, NJ WORLD OF CARDS & COMICS CONVENTION. Holiday Inn, 195 Davidson Avenue 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $1.50 Contact Anthony Grimando, T.J.'s World of Stuff, P. O. Box 23, Dunellen, NJ 08812-0023. (908) 968-5886

Middletown NY BASEBALL CARDS AND COMICS. Middletown Howard Johnson's, 551 Route 211 East 6 PM - 10 PM Admission: Free Contact P & M Baseball Cards, P. O. Box 6086, Middletown, NY 10940. (914) 344-2055

Harrisburg, PA REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION Ramada Hotel I-83 exit 18A. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $3.00. Contact: Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159

Nashville, TN ALL-STAR COMIC & CARD CONVENTION '92. Ramada Inn at Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Dr. Sept 5 - 6. Sat 9 AM - 5 PM. Admission $1.00 Contact All-Star Promotions, Patty Speck or Dennis Swartz, P. O. Box 41311, Nashville, TN 37204 (615) 352-9802

Decatur, AL SPORTS CARD & COMIC CON. Days Inn, 810 6th Ave., NE at JCT. US 31-72. 10 AM - 6 PM Admission $1.00 Contact Faye or Tony, P. O. Box 225, Shannon, GA 30172. (706) 234-3788 or (706) 235-7422

Bayville, NJ BAYVILLE FIRST AID SQUAD COMIC BOOK & BASEBALL CARD SHOW Bayville First Aid Building, Route 9 and Station Road. Contact (908) 269-4327

Hillsborough, NJ WORLD OF CARDS & COMICS CONVENTION Hillsborough Fire Company #2, 375 Rt. 206. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission. $1.50. Contact: Anthony Grimando, T.J.'s World of Stuff, P. O. Box 23, Dunellen, NJ 08812-0023 (908) 968-5886

Fargo, ND BASEBALL CARD AND COMIC BOOK SHOW Holiday Inn, 13th Ave S & I-29. August 29 - 30. 10 AM - 4:30 PM. Contact Lantern News, Kevin J. Bergson, (701) 235-2562.

Tryon, Greene, VA SERENDIPITY COMIC BOOK SHOW Westgard, Hotel. 9401 Westpark Dr. 11 AM - 4: 30 PM. Admission: $3.00 Contact: Bob Horn, 4 Oak Road, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 398-6685

Cleveland OH REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION Ramada Southeast, 24801 Rockside Road at I-271 10 AM - 4 PM Admission $3.00. Contact Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159

Dedham, MA BASEBALL CARD & COMIC BOOK SHOW Holiday Inn 9 AM - 3 PM Admission: $1.00 (under 8 free) Contact Marc Rosenfeld P. O. Box 926, Randolph, MA 02368. (617) 963-1075

Livonia, MI X-TRAVA CON COMIC BOOK SHOW Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Rd. (between 7 & 8 mile road). 10 AM - 4 PM Admission $1.50. Contact Michael Goldman, 19705 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 231, Southfield MI 48076 (313) 350-2633

Ozone Park (Queens), NY BASEBALL CARDS AND COMIC BOOKS AND AUCTION A Gordon Webster American Legion Hall, 107-10 Rockaway Blvd. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $1.00 Contact Joseph Carnana, 134-32 130th Ave., Ozone Park, NY 11420. (718) 845-7680

Pittsburgh, PA REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION Greentree Marriott, 101 Marriott Dr. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $3.00 Contact Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159

Providence, RI PRO-CON Holiday Inn- Downtown, Atwells Avenue at I-95. 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $1.50 Contact: Bob or Rick Anatone, Ocean State Comics & Baseball Cards, 1068 Mineral Springs Ave., North Providence, RI 02904 (401) 726-0753

Philadelphia, PA REALITY COMIC BOOK CONVENTION Holiday Inn Airport, 45 Industrial Way 10 AM - 4 PM Admission: $3.00. Contact Reality Conventions, 20 Richmond Street, Apt 4, Hagerstown, MD 21740. (301) 791-8159

A Brief Recap Of The What's Hot, What's Not Reports

Welcome to the June *Update*. The summer selling season, typically the best of the year, is about to begin. From all we've seen and heard, it looks to be a great one. Most retailers around the country are looking forward to the release of the Batman Returns movie and hope that the film will launch a return of *Batmania*.

The recent back-issue market is lead by Marvel, with most Advisors reporting that the Carnage appearances in Amazing Spider-Man are among the most sought-after. However, the people at Valiant Comics are making some real inroads into the marketplace. If they maintain the quality which they've shown thus far and don't flood the market with second printings like most of the other publishers, we expect demand for their titles to remain very strong.

The market for certain comics from the 1970's remains strong, with new titles becoming highly sought-after with each new rebirth. These are still among the most affordable of the vintage comics, and younger collectors view them as their piece of the "Silver Age/Bronze Age" pie.

The Silver Age market continues to blaze, being lead by key issues from DC such as Showcase #4, Lois Lane #70, #71, and other origin and first appearance issues. Marvel Silver Age keys such as Amazing Fantasy #15, Amazing Spider-Man #1, and Fantastic Four #1 are also on the wantlist of every major investor in this blue chip market. One sign that we've been watching for is the return of the collector to the lower grade sector of the market, and, we are beginning to see positive signs that the key books are selling again in lower grades. However, the lower grade copies of key Marvels and DCs are selling at guide prices while the high grade examples are typically selling for 25% to 50% above guide. Several advisors reported sales on key Marvels and DCs in varying grades with most being sold at current guide. Refer to their individual reports for actual prices reported. Remember: prices vary widely on rare first issues so readers should take into consideration their regional price fluctuations.

We here at price guide headquarters are excited about the upcoming convention season. Look for us at the July 4th weekend Chicago Comicon and the San Diego Comic Convention in August. Come up and say "Hi".

Here is a brief recap of what our Advisors have been saying. For a more complete overview, read the reports. This information is not presented in any sort of order.

Hot Artists

Sam Keith
Bernie Wrightson
Barry Windsor-Smith
Simon Bisley
John Byrne
Rob Liefeld
Jim Lee
Dale Keown
Whilce Portacio

Hot New Issues

Eclipso: The Darkness Within #1
Unity # 1
Spawn # 1
Death's Head II mini-series
Hulk #393
Silver Sable #1
Solar #10
Youngblood #1
WildC.A.T.S. #1

Hot Recent Back Issues (last 3 years)

Amazing Spider-Man #361-363
Amazing Spider-Man #344, 345
Harbinger
Solar
Magnus
New Mutants #87
X-Men #201
Sandman

Hot Back Issues (last 20 years)

Son Of Satan
Amazing Spider-Man #101,102
Hero For Hire (Luke Cage)
Tomb Of Dracula #1
Warlock (1970s series)
Iron Man #55
Iron Fist #14
Swampthing #1
Marvel Spotlight #5
Astonishing Tales #25
Captain Marvel #26

Hot Silver Age Issues

Amazing Fantasy #15
Amazing Spider-Man # 1
Avengers W
Fantastic Four #1
Fantastic Four 48
House Of Secrets #61, 66
Batman #155
Brave & Bold #34
Thor #165, 166
Lois Lane #70, 71
Showcase #1, 4, 8, 34, & 55 (especially)
Incredible Hulk #1-6
Star Trek (Gold Key)

CHRISTIE'S AUCTION UPDATE

CHRISTIE'S EAST ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST COMIC BOOK COLLECTIBLES AUTION TO TAKE PLACE ON HALLOWEEN

Christie's East will hold its first auction of Comic Book Collectibles on October 31, Halloween. Joshua Arfer, head of Christie's East Collectibles Departments will be assisted by Joe Mannarino and Ron Fernandez, noted authorities in the field of comic books and related art and collectibles. Both will serve as exclusive consultants to Christie's.

Since 1984, Christie's has been a creative and driving force in the world of popular culture collectibles. Christie's was the first major auction house in America to devote a sale to animation art. This success has been expanded yearly with record-breaking sales of animation art, entertainment memorabilia and toys. Christie's East's first sale of Comic Book Collectibles will offer examples of the earliest comic strips of the turn-of-the-century through the classics of the 1930s to the immensely popular present.

Uniquely American, popular culture items, such as comic character toys, comic strip art, animation art, magazine illustrations, movie memorabilia and comic book-related materials are increasingly appreciated for their importance in reflecting American society over the past 100 years. These mediums have shaped the imaginations, dreams and goals of generations past, and continue to inspire collectors and increase in value as their importance becomes widely recognized.

Christie's East continues to expand its Collectibles auctions. In addition to the Comic Collectibles auction to be held this fall, Christie's East will hold its first Sports

Memorabila auction on October 17.

COMIC CHARACTER RINGS SELL FOR BIG $$$!

Comic character rings have been in the news in recent months. It seems that every week a new record price has been paid for a rare ring.

Collecting Character Rings began back in the early 1930s and continues today. Rings are still currently being produced. DC just released a glow-in-the-dark Green Lantern ring which was enthusiastically recieved. Because of recent interest in this hobby, Overstreet will be including a complete phot character ring price guide in the *Comic Book Price Guide Companion* #6 due out this fall.

Steve Geppi sells Dave Anderson his Superman Gum Ring for $80,000

Superman Prize Ring also brings $80,000.

Will this Superman Candy Ring also bring a record price?

Other ring sales include: Howdy Doody Jack-in-the-Box for $5,250; An Operator 5 for $8,000; A Lone Ranger Meteorite for $3,750; and a Quisp Figural for $1,900.

NEW RECORD SALES FOR COMIC BOOKS

Record sales continue to occur for rare comic books. The Denver copy of Marvel Comics #1 sold for $100,000 - the highest cash sale currently for any comic book. And a Very Fine copy of Showcase #4 recently sold for $10,000.

Now on to the Reports:

COMIC CAVALCADE

William Christensen and Mark Seifert
502 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820
Ph: (217) 384-2211

We have several bright spots to report on as we move toward the busy season. The new and recent independent market is as strong as it's been in some time, Silver Age sales are up dramatically, and, last but not least, it's possible we're starting to see the return of the 'true collector: the buyer who isn't interested in only investment-grade copies. Our thanks to the many of our peers who have recently reiterated that buying comics is plain fun as well as an investment

New Marvel is a mix of gimmick covers and surprises
(1) Carnage story-line in Amazing Spider-Man 361, 362, 363 . Carnage is the hot villain of the day and should have a bright future ahead of him, as should these three books
(2) Death' s Head II mini. A runaway success that caught most by surprise. Regular series due out in October.
(3) Hulk 393.
(4) Mutant Annuals story-line. Hard to fail with the combined following of four mutant titles.
(5) Silver Sable I. Proving you can never have too much foil on a cover.

Price Examples: Amazing Spidey 361 - $10, 362 - $6, Death's Head II 1 - $9, 2 - $8, 3 - $9, Silver Sable 1 - $3.50.

Marvel rates 55 out of 100. Interesting upcoming releases from Marvel include Infinity War, the Spidey 30th Anniversary Hologram covers, and the Marvel 2099 titles. Also potentially big is the "prism foil" cover on Guardians of the Galaxy #25. The people who saw this effect on Hellraiser immediately scooped up the few available copies. Used on something a bit more mainstream, it could create phenomenal demand.

Hot DC is a bit more form and a bit less flash than Marvel. The problem? It still doesn't sell as well. Poor DC.
(1) Hellblazer #50 up. This is Sandman syndrome. People are catching on to a great character and consistent creativity.
(2) Legends of the Dark Knight #28,29,30. HOW could the combination of Matt Wagner and Batman fail?
(3) Justice League Spectacular #1. Good story, under ordered
(4) Flash Year 1 in Flash #61, 62, 63.
(5) Lobo's Back #1 . Wow. Fans just can't get enough of Lobo or Biz.

Price examples Lobo's Back 1 - $4, JL Spectacular 1 - $6, LDK 28 - $4. Rating out of 100: 50. The most anticipated DC on the schedule has got to be Shadow of the Bat #1. No doubt about it, it'll sell tons of copies. What is being a bit overlooked, judging by customer pre-orders, is Eclipso. DC promises the "jewel" cover will be extremely cool, and what's more, people are already demanding Eclipso's first appearance, but we'll talk about that later.

A lot of Independents worth noting recently.
(1) Star Wars 1, 2 from Dark Horse. Awesome Dave Dorman covers, great story and a slick package. And let's face it: when the other indies call you names, most of your books outsell most DC books, and you can sell to Marvel's audience, you're not an independent anymore.
(2) Hardbouled 3. Obviously a year late because it took Darrow that long to draw it.
(3) All Valiant stuff. Especially Magnus 0. It's the sil ver-age Marvel look and feel.
(4) Next Men. Byrne's larger-than life personality sells even to people who hate it, and no one doubts his ability.
(5) Youngblood 1. And speaking of personalities... It's pretty clear where Liefeld has been spending most of his time. He's off to a thundering start

Price Examples; Star Wars 1, 2 @ $7.50, Crow 2 - $9, Next Men O - $5, 1 - $5, 2 - $4, Youngblood 1 - $4.50, Magnus O w/ trading card - $75. New independents rate a blazing 85 out of 100. What's more, the independents look to sustain their momentum over the summer. Unity from Valiant is more eagerly awaited than Marvel or DC's summer x-overs. It (especially Unity #1) could actually be in short demand due to various distributor restrictions and incentives. Image' s early success could mean big things for future titles, especially Spawn and Wildcats.

Recent Marvel is not quite that exciting.
(l) Various Infinity Gauntlet,
(2) Amazing Spider-Man #344, 345. The first appear ance of Cletus Cassiday, who becomes Carnage.
(3) Uncanny X-Men 266, 282
(4) Original Death's Head series. Short supply and a red-hot mini series.
(5) Alpha Flight 106.

Price examples: Uncanny X-Men 266 - $30, Akira 1 - $30, Infinity Gauntlet 5 - $18, Alpha Flight 106 - $40, New Mutants 98 - $20. The judge's score: 45 out of 100.

If you found recent Marvel boring, you can skip the recent DC section. Or just read last time's report.
(l) Sandman. Especially #21, 22 because they haven't been reprinted yet.
(2) Hellblazer. That Sandman crowd can't get enough of the stuff.

(3) Batman/Dredd. Amazing that Bisley can sell the book even though most Batman fans don't know who Judge Dredd is.
(4) Lobo mini series. Paramilitary Xmas, but notably not other Lobo appearances such as Omega Men #3. The equation, apparently, Lobo+Biz=Sales.
(5) Deathstroke #1. The series continues to attract new followers.

Price Examples: Hellblazer 1 - $40, Sandman 21 - $20, Batman/Dredd - $25. Rates a 40/100.

Recent Independents are a bit more interesting. And with the exception of the Valiants, have mostly horror overtones.

(1) All Valiant books, especially Harbinger #1, and Solar #10 with the black embossed cover and first appearance of the Eternal Warrior.
(2) Crow. The reprints are attracting attention to the originals.
(3) Cry for Dawn. A sporadically published title with a cult of followers.
(4) Faust and various other Tim Vigil books such as Omega.

Price examples: Harbinger 1 - $35, Solar 10 - $12, Omega Premiere Edition - $75, Crow 1 - $30, 2 - $30, 3 - $50. Rating: 60/100.

DC-Just the same as the current issues. This market is probably a 5 on a scale of 100. Only notable(?) sales are Deathstroke #1 ($4.50) and Batman Vs Predator #1 at $6.00. Every now and then there is a request for a Sandman or Hellblazer #1. Too bad we don't have either.

ALTERNATES-A pretty strong market which is probably a 10 out of 100. We sell basically the same titles as back issues as we do on the newsstands. Look for the Aliens B & W senes to do well in the wake of the new movie. We sold a #1 signed by Mark Nelson for $32. It's too early to judge Image comics as a back issue yet, especially since we don't even have any more Youngblood #1's left. Other alternate sales include: Predator #1 ($25), Cages #1 ($6.00), Aliens Vs Predator #1 ($8.00), Aliens Vol. 11#1 ($10.00), Aliens Earth War #1 ($6.00) and Terminator #1 (NOW) at $17.

Early silver Marvel buyers are concentrating on some of the "cheaper" origin/1st appearances.

(1) Strange Tales 110,
(2) FF 48,
(3) Strange Tales 135,
(4) The obligatory Amazing Spider-Man 1-100
(5) FF 52.

Late Silverno's tells much the same tale.

(1) Hero for Hire 1,
(2) Marvel Premiere 1,
(3) Marvel Spotlight 12, Son of Satan 1
(4) Amazing Spider-Man 101, 102 first appearance of Morbius. 102 is square bound
(5) Fear 20. Starts Morbius Solo series.

Price examples: Marvel Spotlight 12 - $35, Fear 20 - $25, FF 48 Fine - $250, FF 53 Fine - $45, Conan 1 NM - $175. Rating: 70/100.

On the DC side of Silver Age, it seems collectors are looking for just about everything.

(1) House of Secrets #61 and others. First Eclipso, also singled out is the first Eclipso cover.
(2) World's Finest #71, mainly because it has received a lot of press lately as being very tough and a bar gain. Justifiably so.
(3) Wonder Woman 105, the legendary "Scarce" origin issue. Also seen as a bargain at guide.
(4) Showcase 60. The latest hit in the Showcase parade
(5) Early Silver Catwoman appearances such as Lois Lane #70, Batman #197, 198

Price Examples: World's Finest 73 f/vf - $250, Showcase 22 vg - $250, Justice League 9 vf - $150, House of Secrets 61 f/vf - $125. Rating: 75/100.

That wraps it up for this time. Thanks for your attention.

> *"I'll let everyone in on a little secret: the Chicago Comicon will feature all the Image creators together for the first time."*

MOONDOG'S

Gary Colabuono
1201 Oakton Street, Suite I
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
(708)806-6060
FAX: (708)806-6177

Hi everyone! It's great to be back on board at Overstreet Update. I was one of the first advisors back in number 1 and appreciate this opportunity to fill you in on what's happening in Chicagoland.

Well, the buzz around here is Youngblood. Most retailers sold out the first weekend and no reorders were available. Caution should be exercised on loading up on Young Blood #1 's until the mass market situation is resolved. Rumor has it that 50,000 to 125,000 copies will hit the mass market in 3-packs after #3 is published. All reports point to the fact that these 3-packs will include first printings. They're targeted to the mass market through Walmarts, K-Marts, etc. and have already been allocated and are unavailable to direct market retailers. My feeling is that these additional 3-packs will be gobbled up quickly and easily absorbed into the collector's/speculator's market. Estimated shortages of 200,000 to 400,000 first printings to meet initial orders leave plenty of room for price appreciation.

Spidey is still hot. Amazing #361 commands $5.00 + and #362 is close behind. Spectacular #189 with its hologram cover should be a big winner. Anticipation is keen for Spawn #1 and WildC.A.T.S. #1, the next two releases from Image comics. I'll let everyone in on a secret: the Chicago Comicon will feature all the Image creators together for the first time. It's going to be a wild time in Chicago this 4th of July weekend! Dark Horse's Robocop vs. Terminator will be hot. Batman: Shadow of the Bat #1 is one of many DC *Batman Returns* releases. Since this is an ongoing series I look for it to be the strongest. Valiant's Unity saga concludes in Unity #1. This book will definitely be under-ordered simply because it will be under-printed. A finite amount of Unity #1's will be available. Watch this one...Eclipso #1 features probably the coolest gimmick yet: A jewel affixed to the cover! And to round off anticipated hot issues is everyone noticing how Cerebus sales are increasing each month? The Mother's and Daughter's story-line features a return of the Punisher Roach and a lot of the elements that made Cerebus a hit lo, those many years ago.

RECENT BACK ISSUES
Some price examples:
MARVEL - - New Mutants # 87 $75, Amazing Spider-Man #361, #362 $5, $3; Iron Man #55 $60; X-Men #281 $4.

80 on the scale of 100.

DC—Lobo #1 $ 5.00; Green Lantern. Mosaic 3.00; Ray #1 3.00; Ray #2 3.00; Ray #3 3.00
30 on the scale of 100.

INDEPENDENT—Unity #O $2.00; Harbinger #1 $5.00; Cerebus #151 $4.00; Magnus #1 $5.00; X-O Manowar #1 $5.00
50 on the scale of 100.

SILVER AGE (market index: 75)

Spider-Man and Silver Surfer are the hottest SA books for us right now. I've sold 2 AF #15's, 3 AS #1's in just the past month! FF #48-50, SS #1-18, Thor #193, TTA #93, FF #55: Get these now!! They're still cheap compared to where they're going to be. Recent sales: AF #15 (fair) $300, AF #15 (VG) $800, Spider-Man #1 (VF) 2700; #1 (VG) $1000; #1 (Fr-G) $350; FF #48 (VF) $400

"We just got Guardians Of The Galaxy #25 with it's very striking metallic cover and we are impressed."

GOLDEN AGE (market index 80)

Batman again leads the way. Recent sales include: #2 (VF) $2700, #4 (VF) $2000, #16 (VG) $1200, Detective #31 (VG) $2500; Sensation # 1 (NM) $3500

TOP 10 FUTURE PICKS

1. Spawn #1
2. Wildcats #1
3. Unity #1
4. Eclipso #1
5. Youngblood #2
6. Eternal Warrior # 1
7. Archer and Armstrong #1
8. Guy Gardener #1
9. Spectacular Spider-Man #189
10. Batman: Shadow of the Bat #1

Well, thanks again for the opportunity to fill you in on what's going on in Chicagoland. I'll see you all at the big Comicon in July. It's gonna be wild - - the Woodstock of comic conventions!

FUNNY BUSINESS

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It's now the end of April and *Batman Returns*, while achieving some initial PR here, does not seem to be generating the interest that *Batman* had reached in the comparable pre-release period. DC badly needs a shot in the arm (and cash register). My customers report that Green Lantern Mosaic is incomprehensible. Armageddon seems to be a flop. All Batman series and crossovers are holding their own, but just barely; Superman and related titles are falling, but not perilously so (yet). The only two titles consistently requested, both new and back issue, are Sandman and Hellblazer. Unless we've got a real tide-turner with Batman II, DC seems to be relegating itself to a more adult audience, bringing out excellent material in this area, far superior to Marvel, but basically functioning as a high level independent.

And, speaking of independents, there seems to be a real difficulty brewing with regard to Image, for which Youngblood hopefully will not be a prototype. I underordered, (or so I thought), given the possibility of lawsuits, delays, etc. Of my original 50 copies, after filling subscribers' requests (very low), I had 26 left, that was two weeks ago. I now have 19 left. Well, the problem here seems to be content, since everyone has complained about the story line. BUT, this is not the real issue. It seems that once the series is completed, it will be prepacked in three's, all first prints, and distributed to chain stores AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE. In good faith to my customers, I've told them of this, which may add to my still having 19 left. The message Image is sending to the independent retailer (your comic store), is that not only will you not be the only distributor, but the chain stores will beat you out price-wise. So, the real message may be that Image intends to function without the comic retailer (which is certainly their privilege), and given the reaction to Youngblood #1, this might be a smart move, since they may not be getting much support from regular comic book readers and collectors, the chain store market might be less sophisticated. Advice here: wait till the discounted sets appear to read them. For investment Blip or Team America might seem to have the edge, unless there is a radical marketing shift.

Well, what does all of this leave? Marvel; what more needs to be said? Perhaps it would be more salient to quote prices. X-Men #201 - range from $12 (in quantity to a dealer) to $24 each; a very quick sell. ASM #361 $10, #362 $6, #344 $8, #345 $6; New Mutants #88-100 easy sells at 25% -50% over Update; Son Of Satan is on fire (oops), Tomb Of Dracula, Werewolf By Night (1st series), all WARLOCKS— in sharp condition, for any of these, from 50% to 100% over Update. 'Nuff said, you get the idea.

And finally, Valiants, which in a proportional comparison are outselling DCs. If you've not gotten them yet, too late...low print runs in many cases, and very high demand (who knew??) have driven the price up. Number 1's of any title go for between $12 and $15; #2's $10-$12; #3's $6-$8—but try to find them. This to me has really been the phenomenon of 1992, so far.

Brief notes: Read the Overstreet Grading Guide. Carefully. Examine the pictures, read the descriptions. This is the first real start I've seen toward a true grading system. You'll learn much about comics; I know I certainly did. And watch Mann and Machine before it's canceled; it's recent reference to President Quayle and Jessica Hahn was a delight. Enjoy.

TROPIC COMICS

John Chruscinski
Michael Goldstein
Robert Prince

Welcome back! As we are writing this, Los Angeles is burning, and the West Coast Avengers are nowhere in sight. Just kidding. We had our share of riots a few years back and we hope our West Coast friends are all safe and sound. Flash! We've just heard the mall six blocks from here has been closed because of looting and purse snatching. Wow, we didn't think it would spread this far (Miami). Oh boy, well, I guess we'll try to get to comics.

NEW ISSUES—MARVEL: We just got Guardians Of The Galaxy #25 with it's very striking metallic cover and we are impressed. It should be a sellout. Also out is Spectacular Spider-man #189, the 30th anniversary issue. The large hologram on the cover is blurry and not real attractive, but the fold out poster by Charles Vess is stunning. We predict another sellout. The X titles are still raging along with the exception of X-Factor which has slowed a bit. X-Force without Rob Liefeld hasn't lost sales for us; we'll have to wait and see what Jim Lee's departure from X-Men will do. The Spiderman titles are still going strong, with Amazing surpassing Spiderman for the first time, due to the blockbuster Carnage saga in issues #361-363. Some of Marvel's newer titles are starting to fizzle out. Darkhawk, Deathlok, and Sleepwalker are down by about a third. Warlock and The Infinity Watch has also not been selling up to expectations. Titles that have improved in sales recently

are Wonder Man, Iron Man, Guardians Of The Galaxy and She-Hulk. Ghost Rider and the Punisher books are still selling very well, but haven't changed much since last time. As for picks, look for Ghost Rider #28 with its zillion gimmicks to be hot. The new Morbius series and Ghost Rider Spirits of Vengeance also look to be winners. Amazing Spiderman #361 is going for $7 here, and #362 for $4. Hulk #393 is selling for $3.75. Everything else is pretty much near cover price.

NEW ISSUES—DC: Batman titles have picked up with the new movie around the corner, but nothing like the craziness we had when the first flick came out. Lobo's Back was a great seller for us, as was his Christmas special. Very warped stuff. The Impact titles have improved in sales slightly but are still selling in very small quantities. Superman comics are doing pretty well, though we have had some complaints from customers about having to buy four different books to completely follow the storyline. Not much else exciting is going on in DC at the moment. Look for the Eclipso: The Darkness Within series and its crossovers to be a hit as long as they don't screw it up like they did War Of The Gods.

NEW ISSUES - INDEPENDENTS: Finally, something noteworthy in this category ! The first Image Comic has exploded on the scene with the publication of Youngblood #1. We were swamped with phone calls about it and sold out the day it arrived. At the moment they are going briskly at $4 each. Spawn and the other Image titles are sure to be big sellers as well, at least for now. We still have to wait and see if they can hold onto the fans that they have pulled over from Marvel. Sorry to say it, but the Valiant titles are not selling. If we're lucky, we move 10 or 12 copies of each title per store. Dark Horse Aliens, Predator and Terminator titles are still doing very well, selling about what an average Marvel book does. John Byrne's Next Men started off very well, but now is down to about half of what the first couple of issues sold. That's about it for new comics.

RECENT BACK ISSUES - MARVEL: Our top five most-asked for issues are (at the moment) X-Men #201, #248, #266; Amazing Spiderman #361 and New Mutants #87. With the exception of X-Men #248, all the above books are selling for way over current Guide prices. X-Men #201 goes for $12; #266 for $10, Amazing Spiderman #361 goes for $7 and New Mutants #87 sells for $70 Our business in all recent Marvel titles is very strong, a solid 85 on a 100 scale.

RECENT BACK ISSUES - DC: Our top five are Batman Vs Predator (all issues), Batman-Judge Dredd, the Lobo mini-series, Sandman #1, and Doom Patrol #19. These are all selling quickly at Guide, but the Sandman #1 is going for $35-$40 down here. All Sandman issues are very tough to keep in stock. On the 100 scale, recent DC back issues are about a 20 (except Sandman—it's an 80).

SILVER AGE - MARVEL: While nice condition early issues of the major titles still rule this category, the biggest change we've noticed in the last few months has been the large increase in demand for Marvel's 70's titles. Defenders, Nova, Powerman, Tomb Of Dracula, Fear, and Marvel Feature/Premiere/Preview titles are some of the titles that were very slow but which are moving well now. You can still pick up a lot of these fairly cheap, so we suggest you look for them now, before the inevitable price increase. As for our top five asked for, Amazing Spiderman #140 leads the pack, with the Green Goblin issues highest in demand. This one really isn't Silver Age, but it's not recent, either: Amazing Spiderman #265 (first appearance of Silver Sable) is red hot and is selling for $15. Other hot Spideys continue to be #122, #129 and 134-137. Hulk #181 is still near the top, but demand for Iron Man #55 and Astonishing Tales #25 has slacked off. I know this is more than five, but all first series Silver Surfer, FF #12, #25-26, #48-50, Captain America # 100, and Avengers #4 are also extremely popular. On the 100 scale, a 75.

Recent Sales: Amazing Spiderman #1 VG $1250 + $250 trade, Amazing Spiderman #1 G-VG restored $650, Avengers #4 VG+ $150, FF 48 VF $250.

SILVER AGE - DC: Top five: Aside from the obvious key issues, any Batman or Detective issues featuring Catwoman or the Penguin are asked for all the time. Lois Lane #70 and 71 (first Silver Age appearance of Catwoman) are in high demand. The 1970's Jack Kirby books like Omac, Kamandi, New Gods, etc. have seen a rebirth in interest, as have the sixties Doom Patrol series. If we had to pick out a single fifth thing, I guess Brave & Bold #34 would be next. 30 on the 100 scale

Recent Sales: Brave & Bold #28 G $180, Green Lantern #1 VG+ $350, Hawkman #1 VF $180.

GOLDEN AGE SALES: Superman #1 FN- $15,000, Superman #2 VF restored $2800, Superman #7 and #10 VF restored $1700 for pair.

Well, that's about it for now. All in all, the market seems real healthy right now, and if all goes well we should be rolling in dough soon. On second thought, that's not a good idea since Bill would deep fry us in fat and eat us.

B. A. 'S NOSTALGIA LAND

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"Hey, buddy, can you spare a few bucks for a copy of Taboo Special? It's been days since I had any good stuff with substance, you know?"

"How do I know you're not going to waste the money on a six-pack of Youngblood #1?"

"I said substance, didn't I?"

NEW ISSUES - MARVEL: Spider-Man #361, 362 and 363 sold out in record time, with #361 still brisk at $8, #362 at $5, and #360 (Carnage cameo) going for $4. Other sell-outs include Hulk #393 with metallic cover ($4), Silver Sable #1 with embossed cover ($4), and Death's Head II #1 (now $5) and #2 ($4). Finally, Warlock's Infinity Watch is still hot after five issues and Punisher War Zone hasn't slowed down yet.

HOT PICKS: All the Spiderman 30th anniversary hologram issues; Ghost Rider #28; Spirits of Vengeance #1; Punisher Summer Special; Infinity War, and all the Marvel U.K. stuff.

TOP FIVE BACK ISSUES: I've never had so many calls, including long-distance, as I have had for Spiderman #344. Also in demand are any Spiderman (#360-363); Venom issues (#346, 347) $5 each; Sable issues (#265 $10); Hobgoblin (#238 $70 for a perfect mint copy); and Wolverine #1 regular series ($25 NM, $30 M).

SILVER AGE - MARVEL: Top five are FF #66 ($33 VG-FN), #67 ($42 VG-FN); Marvel Spotlight #5; Marvel Premiere #1 ($20 FN); Silver Surfer #14 ($25 FN). Other sales: Daredevil #57 (1st Mike Murdock $8 VG-FN); Ghost Rider old series (#68 M BA. copy $12, #3 NM BA. copy $45; #50 M BA. copy $14). On a scale of 100, Silver Age Marvels rank 75, recent Marvels rank 90.

NEW ISSUES - DC: Lobo's Back #1 sold out immediately, and surprise hits were G.L. Mosaic #1 and G.L. Quarterly #1. The Demon issues starring Robin were well received, as was Flash: Year One, which has a lot of momentum (ouch!).

HOT PICKS: Batman Returns movie tie-ins; Shadow Of The Bat #1; Debt Of Honor Star Trek H.C.; J.S.A. #1; and the Death Of Superman issues (when the media gets a hold of them).

TOP FIVE BACK ISSUES: Sandman (any early issues) #1 $45 M, Red Ram H.C. ($50 if any were available); Who's Who In Star Trek (no can find, still!); the first Lobo mini ($7.50 for #1 and $12 for the set); and, as usual, the Sandman soft covers outperform many new monthly titles, dollar for dollar.

SILVER AGE: Most requested DC's are Detective

and Batman, especially Catwoman and Penguin issues; Eclipso appearances, any Showcase; and any Neal Adams early superhero books. Some sales: Showcase #60 VGF $35, #61 GVG $9, #64 FN $22; J.L.A. #17 VFN+ $85; B&B #64 (Eclipso) FVF $30; G.L. #16 FN+ $55; Tec #328 (Death of Alfred) VG $50, #356 (Outsider)VFNM $25; #358 VFNM $25, #364 VFN+ $20 #368 VFNM $22. (All Ted's were BA. copies.) A healthy 70/100 that sell as fast as they surface.

NEW ISSUES INDEFENDENT: All Valiants are strong and growing stronger, Solar #10 sold out in one day; Next Men (#1 now $5), Aliens Hive; Cerebus Mothers And Daughters; Forbidden Planet; and, oh yes, Youngblood #1, despite the general consensus that it's terribly written with absolutely atrocious dialogue (#1 is $5). Sales include X-O Manowar #1 $6, #2 $4; Rai #1 $4; Harbinger #1 $5 (and climbing fast), #2 $4; The Crow #1 $20 M; Groo #1 Pacific (BA. mint copy) $50; and another Green Hornet # 1 M for $30. A very selective 60 out of 150.

"As far as upcoming issues that we expect to do well, watch out for Marvel UK imports. These could be a big surprise."

HOT PICKS: Archer And Armstrong, Unity #0 (BWS art); Spawn and Savage Dragon (if they're written even half as well as they're drawn); and Masques (nice line-up of talent).

MOST REQUESTED INDIES: Any Gold Key Star Treks (#32 and #35 $15 each in about fine grade); American Flagg (talk of a movie); early Concrete (same reason); any Gold Key Turok (is a new series on the way?); and DHP #24 (first Aliens). A slower 35/100 as high-grade independents turn up less frequently than Marvels and DC's. Unfortunately for us all.

So, that's it. Hope this didn't bore anyone, and, hey did anybody notice that I didn't mention any mutants, in order to avoid sounding like an echo? You're welcome.

Here's my top ten future picks in random order: Spiderman hologram issues (counts as one), Infinity War, all Unity issues (counts as one), Savage Dragon #1, Aliens III #1, Eclipso: Darkness Within #1, Star Trek Debt Of Honor hard cover, James Bond: Serpent's Tooth, Batman Returns Official Collectors Magazine, Ghost Rider #28/Spirits Of Vengeance #1 (counts as one).

And here' s the top three artists as far as Silver Age is concerned: Neal Adams, Steranko, Barry Smith.

Now go and read something good!

TIME TUNNEL COLLECTIBLES

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Hello and welcome to another exciting episode of "What's Going On In The Western Pennsylvania Comics Market " As usual, lots of ups and downs and fluctuations. And now to the task at hand.

NEW MARVELS - The mutant titles are still steaming along Even though most of the mutant artists are leaving soon, X-sales still lead the pack. Warlock and Infinity Watch, Death's Head II, Amazing Spiderman #361-363, Darkhawk, and recent anniversary issues (Hulk #393, Captain America #400, etc.) are also great sellers. Punisher has cooled off a bit (except for War Zone), but should pick up again with the summer bi-weeklies.

NEW DC - Legends Of The Dark Knight still ranks as the top seller, but it is getting a serious run for its money from The Ray, Deathstroke, The New Titans, and the revamped Justice League titles. Lobo's Back has started extremely well, but the Impact titles are utterly and completely dead. Impact is not long for this world, I fear.

NEW INDEPENDENTS - Interest in the Valiant line is at an all-time high because of the Unity crossovers. Dark Horse is still the strongest independent (can we still call them that?) with Star Wars: Dark Empire, Aliens, Next Men, and Terminator selling the best. And, finally, at least, Youngblood #1 . Did it sell unbelievably well? Actually, it did even better than that, if that's possible. Did it make any sense or even have a semi-coherent plot? Most of my customers didn't think so, but told me they were going to buy the other two issues of the mini-series anyway. Go figure.

RECENT BACK ISSUES - My top five most asked for Marvels are Darkhawk, Silver Surfer, Amazing Spider-Man, New Warriors, and the formerly McFarlane Spiderman. Silver Surfer (#46 the return of Adam Warlock) sells quickly at $5, Darkhawk #1 is any easy mover at $5 also; Amazing Spiderman #361 (first part of the Carnage storyline) goes for $3.50, and X-Men #281 (new team) is at $3.75. Marvel rates an 85 on a scale of 1 to 100.

DC back issues are still at less than half of Marvel's sales level. In high demand are Sandman, Hellblazer, New Titans (#71 and up), but that's about it. Sandman #1 went a few days ago at $25, Hellblazer #1 is steady at $10, and Deathstroke #1 moves pretty well at $3.50. Otherwise, I can only give DC a 30.

Of the independents, Aliens (any series), Predator (ditto), Terminator (double ditto), and any of the Valiants sell the best. X-O Manowar # 1 blows out of here at $3, Aliens II # 1 is $7.50, and Star Wars: Dark Empire #1 is at $5. The indies still edge out DC on our 100 point scale with a 35.

SILVER AGE/1970's - Silver Age books have really picked up since my last report. Most people are asking for first appearances of characters (Iron Man #55, FF #66 & 64, etc.) or Gold Key titles (Magnus and Solar especially). Amazing Spiderman still sells at record levels, more so in higher grades. Recent sales include: Adventure Comics #347 (first LSH) at $175 (good), Hulk # 102 at $85 (VF), Silver Surfer #6 at $45 (NM), Daredevil #16 & 17 (Spiderman appearances) at $30 each (both in fine), Marvel Preview #2 Punisher) at $90 (F), and Mystery In Space #88 (with Hawkman) at $17 (fine). The Silver Age market has definitely picked up for me in the last few months, so I'd have to give it a 50. On the way up, but still steady.

TOP TEN FUTURE PICKS (in no particular order): James Bond #1 (Dark Horse); Star Trek: Debt Of Honor GN and Justice Society Of America #1 (DC); The Spider. Reign Of The Vampire King (Eclipse); WildC.A.T.s and Brigade (Image); Amazing Spiderman #365 (hologram anniversary issue), 1992 Marvel Swimsuit Issue, Ghost Rider #28 (start of the "Rise of the Midnight Sons"), and Spirits Of Vengeance # 1 (Marvel).

Well, that's about it for this time. Tune in again soon!

Until then, have a good one!

THE FUNNY PAPERS

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Hello once again from the fog capital of the world, San Francisco. I'm going to try to keep this short and sweet because as of this writing we're almost moved to our new, larger location! (And anyone who's ever moved—and who hasn't?—knows how tiring that can be, so without further ado)...

NEW ISSUES - Marvel is still tops in sales but is losing ground fast on several titles. X-Force and X-Men are down about 20% and 10% respectively, though Uncanny X-Men is

holding firm thanks to the storyline. The Image line of artists have eroded these titles dramatically and the writing has simply not been strong enough to take up the slack. Marvel needs a wake-up call! Fortunately, they have some sure-to-be hot books looming on the horizon: the hologram cover 30th anniversary Spideys, the Infinity War, Spirits Of Vengeance. All of these issues successfully use proven elements—anniversary/holograms, Starlin, Warlock/Thanos conflict, and terrific art with ultra-cool characters. All in all, Marvel' s summer looks very promising, but they need to shore up their older, middle-of-the-road titles like they did with Namor (Lee's art in this series is drawing mega-attention. I'd latch onto these issues quickly!). Recent hot books include the Death' s Head II mini-series, Amazing Spiderman #361-363, Ghost Rider #25, Nomad #1, and Silver Sable #1. Out of this group, I'd say Death's Head and Carnage will be around for a long, long time.

DC is gearing up nicely for another summer of the Bat. All the Batman titles have seen an increase of about 10-15%, with Batman leading the pack, Legends Of The Dark Knight second and Detective third. Batman: Gotham Nights was a good seller, and proved once again that DC has a stronger percentage of readers than Marvel (Gotham Nights had an excellent story-line and serviceable, not-too-flashy art). Antici-pation for Shadow Of the Bat is running high. This book should make Norm Breyfogle very popular (and deservedly so). Other titles we have confidence in include Eclipse: The Darkness Within (neat purple 3-D plastic gem cover), Green Lantern #25, Catwoman Defiant (a better Catwoman than Michelle Pfeiffer could never be found), Penguin Trium-phant (ditto for Danny Devito), and, of course, the movie adaptation of *Batman Returns*. Recent hits include (of course) Lobo's Back #1, Green Lantern: Mosaic #1, Green Lantern Corps Quarterly #1 (a surprise hit), and Joe Quesada's art in The Ray. This mini-series took everyone by surprise. Speaking of surprises, Youngblood #1 sold phenomenally well. Now the only question is—will it sustain itself? It definitely eroded Marvel sales—after all, Image and Marvel are competing for the same dollar. Spawn will probably be even more popular. What worries me is the number of people (especially kids) who may be buying these books on sheer investment value. Sure, they're hot titles now, but I doubt whether their resale value will be that much above an X-Men #1. Remember--buy what you truly like and you can't go wrong! A case in point is the success of Valiant. Unity looks like it will be a big hit for them. X-O Manowar is impossible to keep in stock. These comics are true collectors items. Dark Horse has its biggest hit since Aliens with Star Wars: Dark Empire. People are crazy for this book! Continuity has been scoring some modest successes with Cyberrad and Crazyman. All in all, the independent market is strong and healthy, a good sign for the industry.

BACK ISSUES - Top Five Marvels: New Mutants #87 ($50), Uncanny X-Men #201 ($10), Marvel Spotlight #2 ($20), Marvel Premiere #1 ($25), Amazing Spiderman #361 ($10), Death's Head II #1 ($7.50). The big news here is the demand for 1970's monster books. Werewolf By Night, Son Of Satan, Tomb Of Dracula, all of these sell well at or (for non-key issues) about 1.5X Guide. Still, the back issue market is selective—these areas are hot, but everything else is tepid. I'd rate it a 65/100.

Top Five DC's: Hellblazer #1-10, Star Trek, Star Trek: Next Generation, Sandman, New Titans (Deathstroke issues and 70 up). DC 70's books are always in demand— New Gods, Omac, Forever People and non-Kirby titles like Ragman and Black Lightning. Batman ... issues (especially Catwoman and Penguin appearances) are starting to be in demand again. I'd give this area a 60/100.

SILVER AGE - DC is still the tops in this area. Top requests are: Batman #155, Lois Lane #70, Brave & Bold #34, JLA #1-10, Showcase #22, 34, 55 & 60. DCs sell in any condition and the market is a 95/100. Marvel is starting to move again, though only high and low grade books have any real interest. VG-FN books are still very slow. Of course, keys like X-Men #1 or Fantastic Four #48 sell right away. Top five book titles: Amazing Spider-Man #1-20, Fantastic Four #48-55 and 66, 67; Incredible Hulk #1-6, Silver Surfer #1 and 4, and X-Men #1. The market is a 50/100. Gold Key is always in demand, especially Star Trek, Dark Shadows, and Green Hornet issues. We have a strong contingent of Disney collectors, so Uncle Scrooge, Walt Disney Comics And Stories and non-Disneys like Little Lulu sell extremely well for us. Classics Illustrated are also a strong, consistent seller.

GOLDEN AGE - We were fortunate enough to get a small collection of Golden Age in, which included a Batman #25 in VG- condition (Joker/Penguin team-up). This sold immediately for 1.5X Guide. Any DC or Fawcett Golden Age sells right away.

Well, this summer promises to be hot in more ways than one. Let's hope lightning strikes twice and will attract more fans to the industry through such projects as *Batman Returns* and *Aliens 3*. Everyone should be aware of the fun in comic books. And, remember—buy what you like, and you'll always profit.

COMICS AND COMIX INC.

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Hello again, comic fans, and greetings from sunny Northern California. It's been quite a hectic couple of weeks, so...TO SPECIFICS!

NEW ISSUES - Marvel is leading the way even with a bulk of its major talent involved in this "mass exodus." Maybe it's too early to tell, but none of the top selling books have slowed down that much. This says a lot for the strength of Marvel as a company. If they can find consistent talent that puts out a quality product that sells well, then the collectibility of all their titles will stay constant.

Hot new issues from Marvel include Punisher War Zone, Silver Sable, Nomad and Death's Head II. And these issues sold double what we expected company wide. The Carnage appearances in Amazing Spiderman are blazingly hot, and with issue #363 introducing Peter Parker's parents, the story line alone will continue to make this title a top seller.

As far as upcoming issues that we expect to do well, watch out for Marvel's UK imports. These could be a big surprise. Infinity War will probably be the event of the summer, and look for Terror Inc. as Marvel ties up its "The Big Guns" promotion.

"Our most requested Marvels are: Amazing Spiderman #361 & 362, the first Machine Man series, Darkhawk #1, and Uncanny X-Men #282."

As for the prices we're getting for the recent stuff: ASM #361- $10, ASM #362 - $4, Death's Head #1,2,3 - $5, Nomad # 1 - $4 and War Zone # 1 - $4.

DC is floundering a little. The best selling titles of the last couple of months were Matt Wagner's Legends Of The Dark Knight and, of course, Sandman. Hellblazer has picked up some steam and the Bat-titles are cashing in on a little of the

hype for the new Bat-movie.

New stuff to watch out for is the new Lobo series and, in the "I-never-thought-I'd-be-saying-this!!!" category, Action Comics with new artist Jackson Guice (formerly of the early Flash issues). I should take a minute to commend DC on the consistency of their Superman titles. They have quality artwork and story and THEY ARE CONSISTENTLY ON TIME EVERY WEEK! ! !

Independents are doing pretty well as we are seeing the genesis of a new force in the market. Malibu has just shipped Youngblood #1 and it sold amazingly well! We totally underestimated the demand for this book and were sold out within hours, with no hope of re-orders. Jeez! ! ! This is an independent—it's not supposed to sell this well! On the other hand, this is an extremely strong statement for the credibility of Malibu as a force to be reckoned with in this market. I wish them the best of luck in this endeavor. Keep an eye out for McFarlane's Spawn and Larson's The Savage Dragon, as the wealth of talent in Malibu's stable comes spilling out over the edge.

Valiant comics are doing very well, although their marketing seems to be a little skewed with this Unity O giveaway stuff. For a company that claims not to have the "Franklin Mint" mentality, this sure looks like a duck. Now that that's said, all their titles are selling really well, and Barry Smith isn't hurting this any.

Dark Horse hasn't done a whole lot of late, although Hard Boiled #3 sold really well and the Sin City story Line has kept DHP on a steady upward climb. Watch out for the Aliens books as well as Newt's Tale.

Recent back issues are doing pretty well, with the top five most asked for being Captain America #282 (with the first appearance of Nomad) and New Mutants #87 (for obvious reasons), Amazing Spiderman #265 (first appearance of Silver Sable), Iron Fist #14 (first appearance of Sabertooth) and Astonishing Tales #25 (first appearance of Deathlok).

As far as rating the recent back issue market on a scale of a hundred, it is as hot as it's ever been. Obscure DC and Marvel horror titles are incredibly hot. We're getting as much as double Guide for early Werewolf by Night, House Of Mystery and Tomb Of Dracula, and it's not stopping there. Collectors are skipping over the more pricey Silver Age and are finding out that a lot of the 70's books had pretty good art and stories, too. It may be just my observation but the collectors I see buying the 70's books are a lot younger than usual and they want to collect books that are in their price range. All things considered, I see this as a pretty good trend for this market.

Prices we're getting for the aforementioned books are: Captain America #282 - $20, New Mutants #87 - $75, Amazing Spidey #265 - $25, Iron Fist #14 - $100, and Astonishing Tales #25 - $100.

Silver and Golden Age are the same as always. It's always in demand as long as it's priced correctly. DC silver and gold are always hot, but Marvel seems to be slipping a little. This becomes painfully obvious in the prices people are willing to pay.

Well, that's pretty much all for this time. I would like to thank Mr. Warren for the space, and I hope that all of you have a prosperous quarter ahead. So, from all the staff here at Comics and Comix. . .PEACE!!!

MACK COMICS

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Greetings from Connecticut. We are pleased to announce the opening of our second store, a bull-headed attempt to face down the recession. It's an uphill battle, and the news is fairly good. To wit:

X all across the board. X-odus to Image or not, the three main mutant titles are hot. The overlooked mutant title, Excalibur, is still climbing the sales charts, with issue #50 selling very well. Yet, for all its positive aspects, X-Factor is on a downslide. On the other hand, it is surprising to us that Sleepwalker does poorly in other parts of the country. Anything before issue #5 is scarce, and the rest catch a nice price. Darkhawk and Guardians Of The Galaxy are up once again in both new and back issues. Note issue #17 of Guardians for a possible first chronological appearance of Cable. Wolverine continues to do well, but strangely, all the Punisher titles are again slipping. Cage and Nomad are doing well, and we feel that Nomad may become hot—possibly filling in the gaps Punisher is leaving open. Silver Sable had a blowout first issue, and we expect the same from The Spirits Of Vengeance. MCP #108-111 is noteworthy for the Starlin Thanos story, and there is little doubt of the salability of Infinity War. It wasn't a source of amazement to us, but Amazing Spiderman #363 outsold Youngblood. So much for the "hot artist" theory. Dead: NFL Superpro, Groo, Iron Man.

DC holds bits of the market share than Marvel, but puts out a maximum of high quality product that is still inexplicably overlooked. If the recent CBG article of upcoming DC projects is any indication of what we have to look forward to in '92, then it looks to be a good year for this senior company. Although the new Batman movie has yet to turn people on to the many Bat projects, Run Riddler Run is the exception. The Riddler has a large fan following, and this may be the only bookshelf edition Bat-book worth the buck. Legends Of The Dark Knight sales are up; Batman and Detective have slumped. Shadow Of The Bat may do better than the aforementioned, but it is still too early to tell. The New Titans and Deathstroke fly off the racks, or back issue bin. These characters have a destiny they have not fulfilled. Much potential here. Sandman still sells extremely well. The reworked Justice League titles are again not as hot as they were in '86-'87, selling less than the Demon, a title also having trouble rooting to the bin or new issue rack. Impact = Dead.

DC had a successful story crossover in the 1991 annuals. Expect Eclipso: The Darkness Within to do as well, or better, than Armageddon. Also of interest: Armageddon: Inferno #4, the JSA will return, thus making their many fans happy. When this age-old team returns to their own series, it should have a lasting effect on the DC Universe. Black Condor is expected to get it done due mainly to potential. The long-awaited Star Trek graphic novel should be a perennial seller.

The independents have shown signs of strong growth. Cerebus has popped back into action, and #150 is nearly impossible to find. Next Men and Star Wars are not doing as well as anticipated, but the Robocop/Terminator series may do better. The Valiant titles are HOT, and we were caught short for a few months. Magnus is still the strongest seller, but Solar #10 disappeared quickly, and X-O Manowar has gained a controversial reputation. Look for Archer And Armstrong to be the new muscle at Valiant. Dark Shadows did better for Innovation than Forbidden Planet did, while Image comics have been the newest talk of the industry. Youngblood sold well, but it's fardiness will not help build reader loyalty. We have high hopes for Caliber Press and their new separating comic lines. If they can pull this off successfully, they may become the newest upstart. As it is, Deadworld is worth noting with Vince Locke returning to the book in the future. Image and Valiant are currently the most remarkable companies in the independent market, but we feel that Valiant is the better investment. Jim Shooter's baby has a higher entertainment value, and will no doubt have a higher monetary value (for the investor in you).

Our most requested Marvels are: Amazing

Spiderman #361-362, the first Machine Man series, Darkhawk #1, and Uncanny X-Men #282. Marvel back issues are selling at about 45-50%, and movement is in areas of both the strange as well as the usual. Star Wars flies out of the store at above Guide, especially the last nine issues (all at $1.50 ea.). Battlestar Galactic is likewise a fast seller, with most issues going from $1.25 to $1.50, some not even mint! Byrne FF stories are sought after, and Wonder Man, Sleepwalker, and Darkhawk all command a high amount of movement. X-Men back issues sell at double or triple the amount of those other titles mentioned.

The most desired DC back issues sell at about 35-40%, with Sandman#1 and #19, New Titans #65, Deathstroke #1 and #2, Star Trek Next Generation mini-series at the top of the request list. Sales of the current Demon series run between $2 and $2.50 for #'s 3-17. Green Arrow back issues are highly sought after, with numbers in the 30's near non-existent. We are taking in prices 1/4 to 1/2 above Guide for issues before #45. The Star Trek series are big sellers, with Next Generation on top. Both of the Modala Imperative series are also hard to keep in stock.

"Marvel still holds court and outsells everyone, sometimes by as much as three to one."

Alternate titles are requested more and more, something Mighty Marvel is not likely to enjoy hearing. Our top most asked for: Cerebus #150, Magnus #l, X-O Manowar #1, Harbinger #1, The Realm #4. Sales of note: Megalith #3 for $2.50, Harbinger #4 for $2.50, and X-O Manowar #4 for $2.50.

The Silver Age has been widely ignored these past few months, as consumers are centering on the '70's era comics. We don't have any heavily requested Silver Age issues to report this period, and no sales worth noting.

HEROES & FANTASIES

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Happy summer to all! We're writing this Market Report from our newest (eighth) store in northeast San Antonio. A lot of exciting things have been happening in the comic marketplace, and we're delighted to share them with fans worldwide!

NEW ISSUES - Marvel continues to dominate the new issue market with special covers, character crossovers, multi-part stories in annuals, and new series starting every other week. Over-sized anniversary issues, great new villains, and creative packaging combined with on-time delivery maintain customer interest and loyalty. The list of HOT new Marvels is extensive, but here's what's on top: Amazing Spiderman #358-363 (we can't keep #358-60 in stock at $5 each, and #361 brings $8); Hulk #393 is a bit fragile due to the foil content, with customers happy to buy nice copies at $5; Ghost Rider #25 and #26 flew off the shelf, as has Silver Sable #l; Death's Head II was the surprise HIT with #1 already carrying an $8 price tag . Captain America #400 and Nomad #1 also sold stronger than we expected, and, speaking of expectations, expect the 30th anniversary Spiderman books to sizzle! We are also recommending the Spiderman annuals, primarily due to the solo Venom story...I wonder what's next...

DC has been plodding along, slowly losing market share. A recent high point, however, has been Lobo's Back, which sold at near-Marvel levels! Although we hear many other retailers speaking "doom & gloom" for DC, we expect a strong surge of BATMAN FEVER in conjunction with the *Batman Returns* movie. We're so confident that we've planned a big "Bat-Fest" party and month-long promotion on both sides of the June 19 release date. We predict that Run-Riddle-Run, Penguin Triumphant, Catwoman Defiant, and Shadow Of The Bat will all be underordered by 99% of the comics shops in the US.

Independents are coming back into vogue! Malibu finally got Youngblood out, and we sold 3,500 copies in the first week! Assuming Malibu delivers the other image products as scheduled, we expect Spawn and Savage Dragon to do as well (or better). Valiant hasn't rested yet, and, although the Unity project is a bit complex, interest has been high. The bestselling Valiants are Archer & Armstrong, Solar, and X-O Manowar. Demand for #1 issues of Magnus, Solar, and X-O is high, even with prices of $18, $12, and $12 respectively. Even though Unity #0 is free, we expect to see rapid price increases in this book. Innovation keeps putting out high quality comics that sell slowly when released but become HOT as back issues. Watch out for Dark Shadows and Masques #1, with cover art by Bernie Vallejo! And Dark Horse's Star Wars: Dark Empire has been HOT. Our Dark Horse pick is Aliens: III.

RECENT BACK ISSUES - Marvel Comics also comprise the majority of sales in this area. The top 5 most asked-for are X-Men #201 ($15), Darkhawk #1 ($12), Thor #412 ($18), New Warriors #1 ($15), and Amazing Spiderman #346-47 ($6 each). The price "altitudes" of Iron Fist #14, Iron Man #55, and Marvel Spotlight #5 have cooled the demand for these somewhat. Marvels get an 85 on the 100-point scale.

DC back issues are slower, in general, but there are a few bright spots. We can't keep up with the demand for Batman Vs Predator (all sell at about 2X cover), Batman/Dredd ($7), and Batman: Red Rain ($40). Notice a pattern here? The only other frequently asked for DC is Sandman #14 ($9). DC's only get a 30 rating on the 100-point scale.

Independents move even slower as a whole, although the #1 Valiants, Vampire Lestat, Aliens Vl and V2, and Aliens Vs Predator sell well at Overstreet Guide prices. Except for these, the remaining independents only get a 5 rating!

SILVER AGE - This market is much stronger at conventions, where high grade issues sell at higher prices than we realize in our stores. Marvels still sell best, with Hulk (#1-6), Spiderman (#1-28), Fantastic Four (#1-26, #48-50), Silver Surfer #1, and the #1 annuals being the top asked for vote getters. Recent prices realized: Hulk #3 VF80 ($350), Silver Surfer #1 NM97 ($300), FF #26 NM99 ($225), Avengers #1 MT99 ($250). On the 100-point scale, high grade Marvels deserve a 95, and low grade copies a 20. DC's sell OK, partly because they're lower-priced than their Marvel counterparts. Demand is up for Batman (especially Penguin & Catwoman appear-ances),Brave & Bold (#50-100), Flash (#120-175), Green Lantern (#1-20, #59), and Superman (#150-200, especially #199). Recent sales include: Brave &: Bold #50 VF80 ($50), Batman #155 GD15 ($15), Superman #199 VF75 ($35), and Green Lantern #1 (FN70 ($600). On the same scale, DC's get a 65/5 (high grade/low grade) at shows, and 35/5 in the stores.

GOLDEN AGE - There seems to be a ground swell of interest in Golden Age books - AND IN ALL GRADES ! At the April Dallas Fantasy Fair, we sold a large number of Fawcetts, Timely, DC's and "third tier" publishers, too! Some of the sales were: Whiz #155 FN60 ($70), Captain America #48 VG40 ($125), Batman #62 VG45 ($150), and Captain Marvel Adventures # 18 NM95 ($450). The words we hear are, "with Silver Age comics getting so expensive, Golden Age comics look like a bargain." It is so refreshing to see the resurgence in interest for the classic Golden Age books!

That's all for this report. Thanks for reading it, and get ready for a HOT, HOT summer in Comic land!

RICH 'S COMIC SHOPPE

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Greetings and salutations! Welcome to another issue of the Overstreet Price Update. It is our honest hope that through this updated market report, we can help the comics investor as well as the comics collector to better understand this rapidly changing, and oftentimes confusing, market.

"Silver Age DC's: Still very hot! The only change I've seen over the past six months is that more DC titles are looked for and even in lower grades."

NEW ISSUE MARKET - The new issue market, with summer here, is on the rise. The mutant titles continue to dominate the charts, with Spiderman titles running a close second. Batman titles have picked up, due, no doubt, to the upcoming theatrical release of *Batman Returns*. Nomad started out a little on the slow side, but has quickly obtained a rather sizable following, as has Cage, despite the flub up on Marvel's part concerning the cover format. Warlock And The Infinity Watch is doing well. Superman titles are doing a little better than they were this time last year. Hulk continues to do very well due to the consistent high quality of the storytelling and the superior artwork. Punisher titles continue to sell well, as do Marvel and DC's multi-crossover Projects. Doing poorly these days are: Animal Man, Doom Patrol, Impact titles, Nam, Green Arrow, Groo, Conan, Legion Of Super Heroes, GI Joe, and a few others. Really hot for us right now are: Ghost Rider, New Warriors, Youngblood, Aliens titles, Predator titles, The Ray (a sleeper title!), the new direction for Justice League, and Deathstroke! Upcoming Projects sure to be hot are: Spawn, The Savage Dragon, Brigade, Wildcats, Ragman (soon to be a full-time series), Guy Gardner Reborn, Terror Inc. Lobo's Back, Infinity War, Batman: Shadow Of The Bat Limited Promotion, Ghost Rider #28, Spirits Of Vengeance #1, Spiderman's 30th Anniversary Promotions, and Dead Man's Hand multi-crossover story-line featuring Daredevil, the Punisher, Deadpool, and Nomad!

Innovation needs to take a well-deserved bow for its effort involved with making Dark Shadows a true quality publication. There were quite a few people waiting for the book's arrival, and, despite its tardiness, none of those anticipating its release were disappointed. Until the release of Youngblood # 1, this title had been the #1 independent seller in our store. Valiant is growing! Our orders for their newest book, The Shadowmen are five times the amount of our orders of Dr. Solar #1! ! I'm certain that you can expect to continue to see Unity doing well in upcoming sales charts as well, and although Dark Horse continues to . .le the Independent arena, with projects like the upcoming Robocop Vs Terminator, they might want to watch their back, especially since some of these other little companies are learning to put a whole lot of quality into their books! !

RECENT BACK ISSUE SALES - The recent back issue market is doing extremely well! I'd say that on a scale of 100, with 100 being the hottest, that this particular part of the market is functioning at around 77-80% capacity. The top five recent back issues that I am constantly asked for are: 5. Alpha Flight #106, Northstar issue (you know, the "boldly daring" issue) It brings about $8 around here. 4. Incredible Hulk #377, first and second printings, with the second print being in higher demand than the first. First prints bring current Guide, and second prints bring around $6-$8. 3. Amazing Spiderman #361, no shock here, eh? It brings around $5-$10. 2. Ghost Rider (new series) #1-7. These books will probably never stop selling out at Guide! 1. Death's Head II, all issues!! This book is incredibly hot! ! If Marvel doesn't make this comic continuously available in the states, then they need a little help in the marketing department! Current prices for the series: #1 $12, #2 $6, and #3 $4.

SILVER AGE BACK ISSUE SALES - This is a little tricky. Usually when I write a report, I speak of how Silver Age sales are dwarfing recent back issue sales by leaps and bounds. Now they seem to have evened out and become fairly equal. A recent acquisition of Silver Age that should have stimulated considerable response, simply has not. Now, don't misunderstand—I'm not stating that everyone who reads this report should rush right out and liquidate their Silver Age comics. They haven't decreased in sales, they just haven't had all that much of a considerable increase.

The top five Silver Age books we are constantly asked for are: 5. Doctor Strange #169...some nice artwork and the good doctor's first "stepping out." Near mint copies bring $90. 4. Incredible Hulk #102. key issue for the green-skinned Goliath. This book never used to move for us, but things seem to have changed. Near mint copies bring $140. 3. Iron Man #1...this book seems to be very hard to find in higher grades; most copies are found in lower grades. A truly near mint copy will bring as high as $400!! A considerable difference between this price and the price in the Guide. 2. Captain America #100 brings about 10% above the Guide for a truly near mint copy. 1. Amazing Spiderman # 14. . . first appearance of the Green Goblin. This book is in extremely high demand! Current offers for a truly mint copy are: $650, $700, and $775! This book has always been the topic of an overwhelming amount of discussion, but with an upcoming feature film by James Cameron, rumors of the Goblin's appearance in the film, and Spidey's upcoming 30th anniversary, it is really hot now!

Overall, the Silver Age market is currently functioning at about 60%, on the same scale of 100%, with 100 being the hottest

In closing, I would like to thank Overstreet Publications for the opportunity to write this submission in their first class magazine. It is truly an honor to be part of the oldest and most experienced Guide published, and also the best. Thank you for your time and attention.

FLYING COLORS COMICS

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Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen, mutants and aliens, to the next chapter in the never-ending saga of "Four Colors That Breed In My Closet!" Thanks to Jon Warren for the chance to share this info, and thanks to my staff members Teri Higgins and Sam Stewart for their input.

Comic book sales are still booming here in Northern California, despite a proliferation of marketing gimmicks geared to increase multiple copy sales. The job incumbent upon all of us in the comics business (from publishers to retail clerks) is to do what we can to keep people interested in the contents of our product and not just the packaging.

NEW MARVEL - Our most recent in-store top five are X-Men, Punisher War Zone, X-Force, Spiderman, and Amazing Spiderman. These titles represent a good combination of art, story, new characters and slick marketing. Other titles doing very well are Silver Sable, Silver Surfer, Death's Head, Wolverine, all other X-books and Spectacular Spiderman

#189 with the hologram cover. All Galactic Storm crossovers goosed sales on books like Captain America, Avengers, and Wonder Man. New Warriors, Punisher, Cage, and Nomad are all doing well too. Disappointments are Deathlok, Fantastic Four, Quasar and SHIELD, although the latter title's new direction shows promise. Watch out for Namor with art by Joe Lee as collector's search for the next hot Marvel artist.

Prices: Darkhawk #1 $10, Death's Head II #1 $5, New Warriors#1 $20,Uncanny X-Men#281 (1st) $6.50, #282 $6, Ghost Rider #1 $30, #4 $28. All Spiderman titles are selling over Guide in anticipation of the 30th anniversary and the announced movie by Jim Cameron. Also, one of our hottest movers out of the box is Marvel Super-Heroes Secret Wars #8, with Spidey's first alien costume. Sales are quick at $9.50 on this book.

NEW DC - As ever, the new format line (with books like Sandman, Hellblazer, Swamp Thing and Green Arrow) continue at their steady pace, but Animal Man and Shade continue to lag behind. DC superhero books are anchored by the Superman titles, which are selling like midline Marvels. The Justice League titles are picking up some steam from the recent changes. Green Lantern titles do fairly well. Aquaman continues to be a solid seller, as do the Star Trek and Legion titles. Deathstroke and New Titans are good sellers, too. Those titles selling below expectations are the entire Impact line, Hawkworld and Gotham Nights. Lobo's Back is a hit, with the best cover gimmick of all. Check it out!

Prices: Lobo#1 $7.25, Deathstroke #1 $5.50, and all Star Trek books selling above Guide. Most everything else sells at or slightly below Guide.

INDEPENDENTS - Dark Horse continues to do well with its bunch of licensed movie titles. Next Men is doing quite well, as is Dark Horse Presents with Frank Miller's Sin City . Archie continues to do well here, particularly the Veronica title and Archie #400 (this one sold better than some mainline superhero comics for us!). Sales are unchanged on Now Comics, Grateful Dead and most independents.

Now on to Malibu...sure, there has been renewed interest in Robotech due to the color Genesis book and the Invid War, and Ninja High School, Evil Ernie and other titles are slow but steady sellers, but the big news is Youngblood by Rob Liefeld. The book was very late but worth the wait. It's sales are comparable to typical X-Men numbers for us However, if the whole Image universe thing is going to be successful, these books really need to be on time.

SILVER AGE - Sales continue for the core books from both Marvel and DC, with Kirby Fantastic Fours, Amazing Spideys, Silver Surfers and early X-Men from Marvel, and Adventure, Superman, Batman, Green Lantern and Flash from DC leading the way. Also moving quickly (when we get them) are pre-hero Tales To Astonish, Tales Of Suspense, Journey Into Mystery from Marvel, and House Of Mystery, House Of Secrets, My Greatest Adventure, and Mystery In Space from DC.

Sales include: Atom #1 (G) $75, #29 (F) $45, Action #140 (FR) $16, Adventure #315 (VG) $10, #317 (VG) $10, Strange Adventures #184 (G) $20, Fantastic Four #48 (F) $100, #49 (F) $40, #50 (F) $50, Iron Man #55 (G) $20, Tales To Astonish #38 (VG) $35, #21, 23, 28 (F) $25 each, Silver Surfer #1 (F) $95, X-Men #2 (Fair) $30.

Most requested Silver Age books are all the first issue keys in very high grades or affordable low grades, plus Adams' Batmans and Green Lanterns, House Of Secrets #92, early Legion appearances and Lois Lane Catwoman appearances. Requested Marvels are Iron Man #55, Silver Surfer #4, FF #48, 49, 50, and Amazing Spiderman #1-100.

Top ten future picks are in no particular order: all the Spiderman hologram anniversary issues, Batman: Shadow Of The Bat, Catwoman Defiant, Rise Of The Midnight Sons, Morbius, Ghost Rider #28, Spawn #1, Wildcats #1 (Jim Lee's new title!), Infinity Wars and Disney's Beauty & The Beast limited series.

With a lot of diversity in the market and no single gigantic new release, this summer looks like a real winner for comic book fans. So, without the pressing need to buy multiple copies, try some new and different titles for a change. . . 'cause comics don't have to be hot to be COOL!

SUPERIOR COMICS

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Openers: Can anyone believe that summer's upon us once again? Heck, the San Diego Con is right around the corner, whoa!

Thanks, J.W., for putting out the only price guide update that really makes sense.

MARVEL (NEW STUFF) - Amazing Spidey #361-363-Carnage, that Venom Spawnin' guy, is very hot! #361 is at $8.50 already! Hulk #293 foil cover/anniversary issue is smokin' and Keown is still my pick for artist of the 90's. All that mutant stuff is hot (as usual). Galactic Storm was OK. And the old guys are holding their own. Warlock and Cage bit it. Death's Head sez, "Ha, Fist Ghost/X-Men Hell Ghosts pop-up pooped out. Marvel still holds court and outsells everyone, sometimes by as much as three to one.

DC (NEW STUFF) - Batman and Dark Knight sell very well (Movie hype!). Lobo #1 be's back, he's bad, he's selling, he's hot! Sandman is still DC's most consistent seller. Hellblazer is not bad; everything else is blowin' taps.

INDEPENDENTS - Dark Horse is still ruling with an Iron Hand, but Valiant (that young upstart) is making some headway. Star Wars was a hit, as was most of the DH movie tie-in stuff. Of course, Image is the publisher everyone's got their eye on, thanks to the turncoats from the Marvel bullpen. Youngblood hype was unreal, and to say we sold out immediately is putting it mildly.

SILVER AGE DC - If you haven't found your high grades yet, then, bye, time is running out. DC's are just not surfacing anywhere, and if I find one in high grade I'll be payr Keys have virtually disappeared from the marketplace and things are not getting better, so good luck. Some sales: Showcase #34 VF+ $700, Atom #1 VF $500, Justice League #1 F+ $500, Metal Men #1 VF $250, Hawkman #1 F+ $150, Lois Lane #70 (Catwoman) VF $135, Showcase #22 F/VF $700, Aquaman #1 F- $150, Superboy #7 F+ $200.

SILVER AGE MARVEL - Spiderman! Spiderman! He's soooo hot, good Lord! I had #1-10 in VF/VF+ and they're gone, gone, all gone (and they're expensive too, thanks to Sotheby's auction). Believe it or not, everything else, including a lot of keys, have slowed way down. X-Men, Thor, Iron guy, Namor guy, Astonish and Suspense (except pre-hero) are down. Weird, huh? What happened to TTA #27 - no one wants it anymore. Go figure (I love that book). Sales: Spiderman #1 VF $5000 Yikes!, Spidey #2 VF+ $1200, Spidey #3 VF++ $900, Spidey #4 VF $700 owl, Spidey #8 VF+ $500 Hulk #2 F+ $450.

GOLDEN AGE - You know what the score is: Timely/DC (what else is new?). War covers are especially popular. Cap, Torch, Marvel Mystery, All Star, Wonder Woman, Young Allies, Batman, Detective, etc. are all hot and getting hotter. Unrestored copies are commanding premium prices, some way above Guide. Early 50's horror comics are on the upswing—Crime Suspense Stories #21 is hotter 'n hot in high grade. Bullet Man, Masters, Fawcetts, Centaurs, Quality are all doing well, as a matter of fact Golden Age comics are really in demand—thank you. Sales: Namor #1 F- $1300, Sun Girl #1 VF+ $500, All Star #8 F- $1200, Captain Midnight # 1 F $700, Spy Smasher #3 VF $500, Master #21 VF $300, Detective #129 VF+ $275, More Fun #45 VF+ $300.

Closers: Most of the dealers I've talked to lately are singing "Happy Days Are Here Again". Well, let's hope so. See ya in San Diego—come on up and say hi! Later!

COLLECTORS ASYLUM

San Antonio, TX

Greetings from San Antonio, and thanks to everybody who responded to our last market report. This quarter has not been particularly exciting for Marvel, DC or the independent markets. However, each area had one or two exciting spots.

MARVEL COMICS: Amazing Spider-Man 361-363, need we say more? Did everybody else get caught sleeping on this one? 361's are selling steady at $8.00, and we've heard of them selling for more. These were THE books to have for the past month and a half and they are still hot. Spider-Man isn't letting up for the summer .. The hologram covers on the 30th anniversary issues should make Spider titles the #1 seller for Marvel in the months of April, May and June. Also look for all three of the Spider-man annuals to do well due to the Venom back up story and his first solo adventure. Silver Sable was a pleasant surprise for us. In general people liked it's cover better than Silver Surfer 50. If only all of Marvel's gimmicks looked this good. Ghost Rider 25 sold well but was not a fan favorite. The pop-up center spread did not elicit many positive reviews. "Big Guns" is under way and is doing moderately well. Punisher War Zone has been selling well and is on its way to becoming the most popular of all three Punisher titles. Death's Head fizzled a bit towards the end, and Nomad had a moderate initial reaction. Cage is dropping off, which is not good considering it never really took off. Again the mutant titles are the big sellers for Marvel. X-Men leads, followed by X-Force, Uncanny, X-Factor and Excalibur. Wolverine sells rock steady, not moving up, but definitely not going down. The Scattershot annuals did okay, but only sold within the mutant market. Gambit and Bishop are quickly becoming the fan favorite mutants (or Gee-Cee's to be politically correct). People follow their exploits more closely than Wolverine or Cable. The forthcoming "Rise of the Midnight Sons" has not had a terrific response. We have more people inquiring about the Cable mini-series than any of these titles. Spirits Of Vengeance is going to lead this promotion and expectations are mixed. Next is Morbius and art on the series does not look too impressive. We haven't heard anything about Night Stalkers or Darkhold, but they are to be released later this year. This appears to be Marvel's attempt to enter the horror monopoly currently held by DC. They are going to have to work hard to match the quality of such books as Sandman and Hellblazer. By the way, contrary to the beliefs of the Comic Book Counselor on page 92 of Update 21, Neil Gaiman is the WRITER of Sandman not the artist! For the summer look for Infinity War to match if not beat the sales of Infinity Gauntlet. Infinity Watch has been popular, Starlin has reached the same balance of humor and action that made Justice League popular when it returned. Rumors are flying about who has the sixth gem. The most popular choices are Mister Fantastic, Uatu, Dr. Strange, Silver Surfer or even Thanos. Marvel should have a good summer.

> *"McFarlane Spider-Man issues have frozen solid. In a recent store-wide sale, even 25% off Guide couldn't move them."*

DC COMICS: DC has been pretty quiet lately. Lobo's Back would have to take #1 for DC since the last update. Although a brief increase in Superman sales resulted from the 'Panic In the Sky" crossover. Their Green Lantern push isn't taking off. Mosaic 1 sold to the regular readers of Green Lantern as did Green Lantern Corps Quarterly. If any Green Lantern book is going to take off it will have to be Guy Gardner. This has the advantage of attracting JLA fans as well as GL fans. Speaking of JLA, "Breakdowns" was a phenomenal story but didn't pull in the new readers DC was probably expecting. JLI Spectacular sold very well, but it looks like JLE is in the same position they were in at issue 1: Wonder Woman was supposed to be the team leader but was never in the book. Now where is Hal Jordan? By bringing back these original Leaguers and making covers reminiscent of the Silver Age sales might increase. Of course Batman is going to rule the summer. We've heard something about a second movie or something. You don't think that's why we're going to see a fourth monthly title do you? Nah. Never-the-less, Batman: Shadow of the Bat debuts in May. This, along with the plethora of other Batman books coming out this summer, should be the cornerstone of the DC summer sales. We do not, however expect the same amount of Bat-mania the first movie generated. The DC horror titles (Sandman, Hellblazer' Swamp Thing, Doom Patrol and Shade) have picked up lately. Another victory for books that rely on quality writing instead of "hot" artists alone! "A Game of You" from Sandman just finished and was wonderful. People pretty much agree it could have been an issue shorter but liked it as well as 'Seasons of Mist,' which will be available in hardback soon (RAH!). But the best news is that over the next few issues the missing brother Destruction will be found. "Eclipse: the Darkness Within is DC's crossover endeavor for this summer and has had a good initial response. But why solicit for a direct copy of number 1 in May and a newsstand copy in June? Customers can get too much of a good thing. People are also looking forward to the Death mini-series and the Heckler later this year.

BACK ISSUES: Amazing 361-363 again are the hot books. People are still debating over what Carnage's first appearance, Amazing 344, 345, 359 or 380? All these books sell well over guide. Uncanny 201 never lasts more than a day on our wall and sells for $14. We haven't seen a New Mutants 87 for a while but not many requests have come in either. Everyone seems to have all the New Mutants they want. Iron Fist 14 is still one of the most requested books out, but we haven't seen one in months. Astonishing Tales Deathlok appearances have also slowed down. Gold Key issues have been popular, due to the success of Valiant. Gold Key Star Treks are also very popular. For DC Sandman and Star Trek: The Next Generation (especially the mini-series) continue to blow out of our boxes. X-Men and X-Force back issues sell at an unbelievable rate. Even X-Men 1s, all covers, sell continually. X-Men 4, 5 and 6 are bigger than 2 and 3. The Omega Red story was very popular. 6 is the best seller, probably due to the Sabretooth cover. All of the X-Force back issues sell equally well. Spider-Man continues to sell well as a back issue. X-force 1 and Spider-Man 1 do not sell, however. People have had their fill of these over-printed books.

INDEPENDENT: Youngblood 1s, of course, the biggest news this term. It sold well, but it will be interesting to see how long the artists can sell themselves. The stories in Youngblood 1 were pretty lame, and considering Rob wants to do a monthly flip book, he better learn to concentrate more story into the limited space instead of giving room to two page team shots that only reaffirm he has no concept of anatomy. Spawn 1s already looking like it will outsell Youngblood, while there has been virtually no response to Savage Dragon. Look for Spawn to be the big image book this summer while Dragon may be a dog. Valiant continues to impress us with great stories reinforced by well balanced artists. Unity 0 was very popular, unfortunately it was impossible to get to everybody who wanted it because of the ordering restrictions. Unity 1 will be even more difficult to obtain than Unity 0. Solar and Magnus are the most popular Valiant titles with Rai bringing up the rear. Archer & Armstrong was excellent and was well received. Dark Horse has been pretty

quiet this quarter. Star Wars: Dark Empire is still the most popular Dark Horse book out right now. People are also looking forward to the conclusion of Sin City in Dark Horse Presents, let' s hope it is not as disappointing as the conclusion of Hard Boiled. After waiting over a year for issue 3, Hard Boiled was a big let down. Aliens: Hive is a really good, if not slightly slow paced story. Kelly Jones was born to draw Aliens. *Aliens 3* should have the same affect on these books as *Batman Returns* should have on Batman. Newt's Tale also looks very interesting. Several years ago, Aliens artist, Paul Nelson penciled an excellent story entitled Newt's Tale which Dark Horse never published. I wonder if this version will be as good?

"Valiant is red hot! They seem to be gaining new readers every day. Unity is eagerly anticipated."

That' s the way San Antonio looks for comics. Have a good summer, we will here at the Asylum, where every day is better than a convention!

KEITH CONTARINO

Atlanta, GA

Hello again from Atlanta! After inadvertently having had my last Market Report eaten by Jon's computer and sent to who knows where, I've a lot of catching up to do, so on with the report and—Go Braves!

New Stuff: I'm dabbling a little in new books. I know, I know - I said I would never get involved in this lunacy; but, let's face it, neither I nor anyone else can get people to spend their money smartly. Consequently, I'm going to start offering some new and recent product. I will never understand why anyone would pay 5 to 10 times over cover price for a mass-produced book a couple of months old - but they do. Carnage is the rage. No one ordered ASM #359 and #360, and everyone under-ordered #362. Of course, his first full appearance in #361 easily brings $7. #362's stunning yellow cover probably had something to do with its disappearance from the stands in a few days. It sells at $4; 359 and 360 currently bring $3 and $5, respectively. However, 345 is the first true spill appearance of our new favorite sociopath, and no one ordered that book. True, the split is only on one page; but, hey, we're talking new books here and I've seen 345 as high as $20. X-Men, New Mutants, X-Factor, Ghost Rider, Silver Surfer, Wolverine and Punisher all do well. I have seen many perfectly cut X-Men 281s, and they do not bring the crazy prices I hear from Canada. #282 now sells quicker and for more than 281 ($4 vs. $2.50 or $3). I am currently purchasing 20-100 copies of books I think will do well and selling them within a six-month time frame. I am no expert on this, so my five hottest books may mean nothing. Remember, I am influenced by quality on everything I buy. As I said last time, quality often has nothing to do with profitability. As an example, Robin II sold relatively well but was the absolutely most ridiculous, poorly written, stereotypical, unbelievable nonsense I have read in years. Go figure. I'm buying all the Valiant Press back issues I can find. These are extremely high quality and sought after. TOP FIVE: (1) ASM #361, (2) ASM #345, (3) Hulk #393, (4) Alpha Flight #106, (5) X-Men #282. SALES: New Mutants 86 $14, 87—$65-70, 88 $20, 98—$12; X-Men 281—$2.50-$3, 282—$4, Daredevil 257—$18, Hulk 393 $4; Wolverine 1—$20; Silver Surfer 50—$5; Ghost Rider 1—$18;X-Men 201—$20; Alpha Flight 106 $20. All the Valiant Press books sell great. Solar and Magnus 1 both bring $10. All issues are sought. Harbinger and X-O Manowar are equally hot, with first issues currently selling for $8 each.

70's DC: Collectors/investors of 15¢ and 20¢ DCs are getting less finicky. They'll accept slightly yellowed books, a little spine wear, slight tanning, etc. It is becoming very hard to find early 70's books in VF/NM or above. All Neal Adams books are hot, especially Batman titles. Let me say here and now, Batman is starting to escalate rapidly. His books have had virtually no growth since the last movie, and many need to go up again. Not easy-to-find books like 426-429, 433, 436—but scarcer items like 20¢ covers, $1 square bound, and even overlooked books like 417 are due to take off. The 25¢ oversized books DC came out with in the transition period between 15¢ and 20¢ covers are red hot in high grade. Easily 85/100 and this is for all titles. 70's DCs in general—70/100; high grade 80/100. TOP FIVE: (1) House of Secrets 92, (2) Batman 234, (3) Swamp Thing 1, (4) Green Lantern 76, (5) Mr. Miracle 1. SALES: HOS 92—F-$55, F/VF-$65, Batman 200 VF+—$150, 234 VF—$75; Swamp Thing 1 NM—$50.

70's Marvels: Interest still on the rise as fewer people can afford 60's Marvels. Even fairly expensive titles like Conan are on the move in NM. 1-24 are selling again around Guide if in NM, especially #s 1 and 3. Iron Fist 14 has leveled off for us. NM copies sold well until the price reached $85. We have no interest at all if priced at $100 now though we did sell two NM/M copies at $100 each five months ago. Iron Man 55 has also slowed, but affordable copies in the $60 range still move easily. By far the most important 70's Marvel is Giant Size X-Men #1. We sold a stunning white copy with no manufacturing defects (as so many had) for $225, and that was a steal. We have another, and it's priced at $300. If the first Punisher is worth $250-300, what's the first appearance of the new X-Men truly worth? Look at all the books currently published at Marvel, and it's easy to see the most important previous events were the beginning of Spiderman and the New X-Men. Watch for G.S. X-Men #1 to continue to escalate. It's very hard to find above VF. Paper quality is poor, it's square bound; it's white, and many have manufacturing holes on the bottom front cover. In fact, all Giant Size books are sought after. Of course, Spiderman 101 and 121 are extremely sought after in high grade, as are all first appearances like Luke Cage 1, Tomb of Dracula 1, Werewolf by Night 1, Special Marvel Edition 15, Marvel Premier 15, Nova 1, and Marvel Spotlight 5. Adams books like Avengers 93-96 and X-Men 56-64 are also hot in NM—95/100.

TOP FIVE: (1) Spiderman 100, (2) Spiderman 101, (3) G. S. X-Men 1, (4) Luke Cage 1, (5) Ghost Rider 1. SALES: Luke Cage 1 VF/NM—$40, NM—$60; Marvel Spotlight 5 FN—$45,F/VF—$70; Spiderman 100 NM—$125,101 NM—$100, F/VF+—$75,102 NM $90, VF+—$70; Astonishing Tales 25 F—$40; Tomb of Dracula 1 VF/NM—$45; Ghost Rider 1 VF+—$40.

Silver Age DC's: Still very hot! The only change I've seen over the past six months is that more DC titles are being looked for and in even lower grades. This is the first time in 20 years I've seen fussy, condition-conscious collectors accepting Fines (and, in some cases, even VGs) for hard to find books. Let's face it—most 10¢ DCs are scarce in any grade, and a solid Fine may be the best available. Books in this category are Flash 105, Showcase 1-25, Our Army at War 81, Lois Lane 1, Tales of the Unexpected 40 and 43, Mystery in Space 53. Most 12¢ DCs do not fall in here, as numerous Fine copies of books like Hawkman 1, Aquaman 1, Atom 1, and Metal Men 1 are readily available. Also for the first time in years, I see people purchasing 10¢ non-hero DC titles like Strange Adventures, Mystery in Space, My Greatest Adventure, and Tales of the Unexpected. Especially hot are dinosaur and monster covers. Look for all the 10¢ non-hero DC books to continue to be in high demand. TOP FIVE: (1) Brave & Bold 34, (2) Lois Lane 70, (3) Showcase 55, (4) Showcase 4, (5) JLA 21 and 22. SALES: Hawkman 9 (Atom appearance) NM $100; Brave & Bold 28 VF—$1,850, 34 FN $335, 34 VG $190; JLA 1 FN—$625; Flash 137NM/M—$300; Showcase 55 F/VF $135, 57and 58 perfect mint copies $125 ea.; Showcase 45 NM—$150; Lois Lane 70 VF+—$200; Our Army

at War VF+ $125; Showcase 60VF—$120;Brave & Bold 61, 62 VF-minus $35 each.

Marvel: It seems every report we find something else new about the Marvel universe. Last time, advisors accurately pointed out Warlock (HIM) was not even mentioned in FF 66 and had only a cameo appearance in #67. Since then, Thor 165 and 166 have become red hot. While certainly not as earth-shattering, I'd like to thank Mark Montgomery for pointing out to me that the Green Goblin appears in Spiderman #18, making that cameo (or flashback) his third appearance. Kraven is also in one panel so, I guess, this is his second appearance. Anyway, collectors are becoming very cross-over conscious and books with major character cross-overs like Strange Tales 120 are being sought after.

Marvel Keys are once again hot. We have sold eight Spiderman #1s since January in varying grades. Even low grade copies of Daredevil 1, Journey into Mystery 83 and Avengers 1 have sold easily when priced and graded correctly. Again, it's a buyer's market on mid to low grades, so accuracy and a sense of value is imperative. Low grade non-Keys other than very early FFs and Spideys are still very difficult to sell at any price—20/100. Two books taking off again are FF 48 and Avengers 4. Both sell well in all grades 20-30% above Guide up to VF and up to Double Guide at NM. Captain America has to be one of the most important Marvel characters of all time. How important? Well, at least as important as Green Goblin. So why does his first appearance Guide for hundreds of dollars less? For that matter, why does Cap's first appearance list for a third of that of Iron Man? I don't know, but I do know I have 10 requests for Avengers 4 and one for TOS 39. That's not to say TOS 39 is not a great book—it is, but not as good a value as Avengers 4. X-Men are again hot, especially 1, 4, 6 and 12. We are out of high-grade copies of anything below #40, and even the lower grades are selling OK. All square bounds and annuals above VF are red hot. TOP FIVE: (1) Amazing Fantasy 15, (2) FF 48, (3) Amazing Spiderman 1, (4) Thor 165 and 166, (5) Avengers 4. SALES: Spidey 1 Fair $175, G/VG—$400; VG-minus—$850, VF— $3,500; Avengers 1 Fine—$400; FF 50 VF+ $100; FF 48 VG—$90, 48 F+—$160; Daredevil 1 G/VG—$135; Iron Man 1 NM/M—$450; FF Annual 2 NM—$225; Annual 3 VF+— $120.

Golden Age: Sean Linkenback and I co-sold (his book, my buyer) a very nice Batman 1 with only slight spine restoration for $18,000. I have completely sold out of all GA Bat titles. We also sold all our Ohlshevsky Timelys for between 2.0 and 3.0 Guide. These books were of Mile High quality, and I hated to see them go. At this time, major Golden Age titles priced at or about Guide and graded accurately constitute a very solid market. All keys sell well, especially in low grade, as they are affordable. I'd call Golden Age 70/100 on DCs and Timelys.

Gold Keys: Gold Key now should have its own Silver Age section. Almost all TV titles sell great if in Fine or above. I'll expand next time, but all first Gold Key issues are hot. Many of the Dell titles printed a 25¢ giant-size for their first GK issue and gave the book a new name (Bugs Bunny Showcase, Yogi Bear Jellystone Follies, Huckleberry Hound Chuckleberry Tales, for example). These are all hot. Same is true for photo covers. Leading the way are Star Trek 1-9; Man from Uncle; My Favorite Marhan; Secret Agent; and Girl from Uncle.

That's it Come see us in New York or Atlanta this summer.

PALADIN COMICS

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Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 771-1535
Mike Halbleib, Owner
Cynthia Boyd, manager

Hello from Great Falls, Montana, the tropical vacation capital of the past winter. And that's the bad news. Record high temperatures and way below average precipitation have only made the recession worse here. Back issue sales are at an all-time low. While new issue sales are still running high, we fear for the worst if the summer brings us a drought Nevertheless, we'll attempt to show you the bright side of things.

New Releases:

MARVEL: Quite a few hits here recently. As always, X-Men and its sister titles rule. Spider-Man has survived surprisingly well since McFarlane's departure, and still places in our top-ten every month. Cage #1 sold out twice and as of issue three sells as well as Silver Surfer. Cable #1 sells for $3. Silver Sable #1 sold three times what we expected, mostly due to the embossed cover. Ghost Rider #25 sold double the normal amount and now goes for $4. Hulk #393 sold triple its normal number and now goes for $5. The Amazing Spider-Man issues featuring Carnage have been sell outs almost before they hit the racks. Part one sells for $5 here. Only Punisher diehards seem to be hanging on to these titles. The new Punisher War Zone never completely sold out, and back-issue sales on all titles are flagging. One of the strangest events of the year has to be Alpha Flight #106. It sold out overnight, peaked at $5 a month later, and now, three months later, no one seems to care about it at all. If you've read it, you know why . Other books on a downside include Avengers and Avengers West Coast, Captain America, Iron Man and surprisingly, Deathlok. This book was one of our top five sellers five months ago. The majority of our readers who dropped the book cited poor artwork. If Marvel acts quickly, they could still save this book. Not from us, from our Deathlok readers: BRING BACK JACKSON GUICE! Marvel is still King! On a scale of 100, we give them a 75.

DC: Robin! Robin! Robin! That sums up DC's entire year on the hot side. Everyone wants the Collector's Sets as well as the Slipcased Limited Series. (25,000 printed). Collector's Sets: #1- $15; #2-$10; #3-$8;#4-$6. Limited Editions sell for $100. The individual issues, however, still sell at cover price. Other DC news in this market isn't quite as good. Even our highest selling titles, such as Legends Of The Dark Knight, New Titans and Sandman, fail to outsell any of the lower-tier Marvels. Despite the fact that we give DC prime new book rack space, for some reason our customers just don't seem interested. For example, Green Lantern: Mosaic #1 hasn't generated even 50% of the normal Green Lantern orders. As a final thought, we are hopeful that this year's "Batman II" will spark some new interest in DC market. Right now, we have to rate DC at 25. We really want this to change.

INDEPENDENT: Dark Horse dominates. Star Wars sells out quickly and #1's move easily at $8. We're hoping for 2nd printings to satisfy reader demand. The Thing mini-series sold out and the second series is highly anticipated. As usual, anything with aliens, Predator, Terminator and their new partner, Robocop, generate monstrous sales. Anything featuring Indiana Jones, young or middle-aged, quickly sell out. In other independent news, the most disappointing event of recent months has to be Youngblood #1 by Rob Liefeld. We ordered these on par with our normal X-Men orders, and as of this report the book has been collecting dust on our shelves for three weeks. We have sold less than 50% of our initial orders. Had Malibu kept the promised $1.95 cover price, this may have moved better. Equally disappointing are the pre-orders on Spawn by Todd McFarlane and Savage Dragon by Eric Larsen. Apparently, if these guys aren't drawing Marvel comics, then the comic buying public doesn't care. Interest in other Image comics that have been announced amounts to very little. The best selling independents at this time seem to be non-super-hero related. Cerebus, for example, is at an all-time sales high in our store, and the new Ralph Snart by Now has been well received. Also, TV and movie comics, when well-produced, sell. Quantum Leap by Innovation and the Anne Rice line also by Innovation are good examples. However,

when done poorly, bad sales result, as with Planet of the Apes by Adventure/Malibu or Lost in Space by Innovation. Speaking of Malibu, the new Tarzan has received more groans of disgust from our customers than any recently announced comic. One look at the promo material tends to show why. People prefer 'Me, Tarzan' to "Me Tarzan-Rambo." Overall, there seems to be a new interest in the Independent market, with the biggest hits being done by the smallest companies. The most obvious example: Faust, by Tim Vigil, Tick by New England Comics and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles by Mirage. If you're looking for the future investable comic, think about the little guys who are pressing less than 10,000 per month. On a 100 scale, a 50 and rising quickly.

BACK ISSUES: RECENT MARVEL:

1. New Mutants #87;
2. X-Men #266,
3. Ghost Rider #1;
4. X-Men #248;
5. Wolverine #1

First the good news. X-Men have become the new king in our back-issue room, muscling out Liefeld's New Mutants. All X-Men's by Jim Lee sell quickly at guide with the exception of #248, which is out of control. Our last NM/ Mint copy sold for $25. Other notables include #266 (first Gambit) and #282 (first Bishop). Our biggest beef in the X-Men back-issue kingdom has to be #201. While we do editorialize, in this situation we must. Who was the irresponsible buffoon who decided that it's the business of comic book stores to speculate on future events? This whole 'who is Cable' business was started, despicably enough, by the publishers of a so-called price-guide (and not Overstreet). To those dealers who are selling copies for $20-$30: What happens if Marvel announces in this summer's Cable mini-series that he's not the Summer's kid? Are you going to refund money because you were wrong? We won't have to. We still charge guide for it when in stock. Enough. Recent sales: #201 NM/Mint (1st Portacio)-$7; #258 (Wolverine solo)-$7; #266 (first Gambit)-$10; #268 (Wolverine past)-$13; #282 (first Bishop-cameo)-$5; #283 (first FULL Bishop)-$7. Ghost Rider still sells well at guide with the exception of #4, which sells for $17.50 when in stock. New Mutants from #86-100 sell well, with #87 selling out literally overnight. Our last NM/Mint copy sold for $50, and our next available copy should sell higher. All other issues seem readily available and never sell over guide. Silver Surfer has never been hotter! All issues since Ron Lim began the artwork (#15) sell for higher than guide. #1 sells for more as well, simply because it's #1. Recent sales: #1-$7; #34-$12; #50-$10. Look for Infinity Wars to boost this already hot comic. A new surprise in this area is Web of Spider-Man. One month ago we had at least three copies of every single issue in stock in NM/Mint. As of this writing we are 100% sold out, and are actively searching for issues. Is this local, or national? All Wolverine comics are Hotlist/Hot! #48 is the current leader, selling at $6. Other recent sales include #1-$20; $10-$25; #41-$10; #50-$5. Dale Keown on the Hulk has been a real phenomenon. No issue stays in stock at 20% over guide. Also of note are Infinity Gauntlet, New Warriors, Guardians of the Galaxy, Death's Head, Warlock and the Infinity Watch and Darkhawk, all of which sell out at guide prices. Now, the bad news: Punisher is at an all-time low. At 50% of guide, no one is buying. And people are practically giving them to us. The man is in a slump. McFarlane Spider-Man issues, including his work on Amazing, have frozen solid. In a recent store-wide sale, even 25% off guide couldn't move them. All those Spider-Man #1 's that were sold two years ago are suddenly coming at us from all directions. Only the platinum # 1 has any demand at all. Due to the huge quantity printed, the new X-Men and X-Force series sell at cover or slightly higher. The only exception is the X-Men 'E' gatefold cover, which sells briskly at $5. On the 100 meter, register about 80.

DC: Sandman sells well at guide. Robin individual issues sell at cover price, while the collector's set and the slipcased edition sell above guide. Recent sales: collector's sets: #1-$12; #2-$10; #3-$8; #4-$6; slipcased set-$100. Other decent selling DC's include Deathstroke the Terminator and Legends of the Dark Knight. While we wish we could list more, we really can't. As we've mentioned before, the DC market is seriously waning. On the 100 scale, an 'iffy' 30.

INDEPENDENT: Dark Horse still moves fast. Recent examples include: Star Wars #1-$8; The Thing #1-$4; Indiana Jones and the Pate of Atlantis #1-$3. All of this company's titles sell consistently at or over guide prices. Other hot independents in the back-issue market include The Anne Rice titles by Innovation, Faust by Northstar Studios, and TMNT by Mirage. These titles still move at guide. On a scale of 100, we're at about 60 and climbing. This may be the new investor's market.

SILVER AGE:

MARVEL:

Five most requested:

1. Iron Man #55;
2. Fantastic Four #48;
3. Amazing Spider-Man #14;
4. Incredible Hulk #181;
5. Fantastic Four #66,67

Overall, this market is very slow for us at this time. Only key issues at reasonable prices sell. Recent sales: Amazing Fantasy #15- PR-$75; Amazing Spider-Man #25-F-$50. On a 100 scale, only a 30, but it's due only to local economic conditions.

DC and INDEPENDENTS: With apologies, we're not even going to attempt to report on these two markets this time. Sales are non-existent, and we have many nice older DC's, such as Batmans in the 140's and 150's and Doom Patrol's in the low 100's. No one is looking. These areas don't even register on a 100 scale.

Last but certainly not least, our top ten picks for the coming months:

1. Robocop vs. Terminator,
2. Spider-Man anniversary hologram issues;
3. Robin annual,
4. Cable mini-series;
5. Infinity Wars;
6. Aliens: Newt's Tale;
7. Spirits of Vengeance
8. Ghost Rider: Rise of the Midnight Sons crossovers;
9. Batman: Shadow of the Bat (only if 'Batman II ' is a hit)
10. Vortex, the Wonder Mule (locally only)

In a last, personal note, this will be my (Mike's) final active contribution to the Overstreet Price Guide. Future reports will be done by Cynthia alone with some input from me. I have recently accepted a job as a writer/artist for Personality Comics new lines of action/SciFi and comedy. As such, I feel any future reports may hold personal bias based on whatever projects I may be involved in. I have enjoyed my time writing these reports, and hope to see myself mentioned here someday. Look for my first solo comic, Vortex the Wonder Mule, in July. Thanks for allowing me this chance to contribute to the comic market

ELECTRIC CITY COMICS

Bill Townsend
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Hello and welcome from New York's Capital District! Spring is finally here and outside it is sunny with temperatures in the seventies. However, a little over a week ago it was snowing. That's the nice thing about the weather around here: if you don't like it, just wait a few minutes, and it will change! Unfortunately, things aren't so sunny for the comic market. Back issue sales continue to be soft, and new issue sales seem to be lagging as well. Moreover, new issues sales are getting harder and harder to predict. Will it be a hit or

won't it? Will you have hordes of angry customers screaming for Book X or will you be putting it in your wood-burning stove in a couple of months?

NEW COMICS - Marvel's policy of pumping out new titles may be starting to backfire, because this latest crop of #1s is not doing as well as expected and there are no fewer than EIGHT Marvel #1s coming out in May! Regrettably it is the retailers, not Marvel, who are bearing the brunt of this change in public attitude. Punisher War Zone #1, Cage #1 and Nomad #1 all sold decently, but disappointingly, and don't even talk about how their second issues did! Ouch! Silver Sable #1 seems to be doing OK, but I have to reserve judgment until I see issue #2. It may just be the silver cover. An oddity: Punisher War Zone #1 didn't sell too well when it first came out, but now that Punisher War Zone #4 is out, people are asking for #1. Luckily I happen to have enough to meet this demand, and then some. This isn't happening with the other titles though. One of my customers summed up the feeling on Cage: "I liked him better when he was Power Man"As for the anniversary issues, Incredible Hulk #393 did well, but not amazingly so. Captain America #400, however, was a stinker, selling only about 10% of what a normal issue would. Valiant's Unity #0 is having a decidedly mixed reception. some people want it because it is supposed to be "hot"—but it is not helping the sales of the other Valiant books. But you can't understand what is going on lately without reading the other Valiant titles! That's the trouble with having a "hot" book: everybody "collects" it, but nobody reads it! Also, having people buy 16 books at $2 each (or more) is too expensive a way to introduce them to a new comic company. The Marvel Annuals also are not doing well, with the exception of the X-Force Annual. For the first time we are having a significant number of our subscribers requesting 'NO ANNUALS". What a gloomy picture! What IS selling? First and foremost: the Amazing Spiderman Carnage issues (#363). All three were instant sellouts! Secondly: Youngblood #1! I ordered it as if it were Alien Vs Predator #1 (Previously my best selling Alternate comic) when I should have ordered it as if it were X-force #10. Almost all the stores locally are either sold out or almost sold out. Thirdly: Death's Head II. Everybody ordered tiny numbers on this book remembering how bad the last Death's Head series did. However this new Death's Head is drawn much better and looks much cooler. If everyone had ordered it as if it were a standard Marvel #1, it would have done only so-so. Fourth, and finally: Lobo's Back #1. The Main Man sure is rude, but the '90s know how to sell comics! If only the rest of DC would listen. It's now official: the Impact Books are dead. It's too bad, really. I was looking at my sales figures when I realized something: the first issues of all these books did rather well, then the sales dropped off sharply. DC did a good job of promoting these books and building up interest, and people gave them a chance. However, the quality was just not there, so they quickly left. All this proves one thing: hype will only take you so far, the quality must be there too. Therefore, I have the following new issue predictions: the Spiderman anniversary issues will sell well if, and only if, the cover gimmicks they use actually work. Of the Marvel U.K. titles, Warheads #1 looks to be the best bet and could be a modest hit. The great success of Youngblood has readers clamoring for Todd McFarlane's Spawn. Not such a positive reaction to Savage Dragon, however. The Marvel prestige books have been selling horribly recently, and I don't expect the Punisher/Captain America book to change this trend My final, and most important piece of advice is this: don't be a slave to "hot-cold" trends. Buy what you like to read! That's really how to get the value out of the comics you buy!

BACK ISSUES - Back issues sales are down only slightly compared to last year for this two month period (Mar-Apr.), as opposed to last period's (Jan-Feb) sickening plunge. Marvel owns a whopping 77.3% of the back issue market. This is not a record, but close. DC only owns about 13%, and that is a record low. The Alternate/Oddballs make up the remaining 9.5%, a small, but steady improvement. The following is a list of top selling back issues. The numbers in parenthesis refer to the number of comics sold per thousand (CPTs). The first number is for March and April, the second for January and February.

1. Wolverine (49-41);
2. Amazing Spiderman (47-39);
3. Uncanny X-men (41-44),
4. Hulk (34-30);
5. Spiderman (34-31);
6. Fantastic Four (25-28);
7. GhostRider (24-20);
8. Avengers (20-28);
9. Daredevil (19-13);
10. X-Factor (17-20);

Upon first glance, I wonder if Marvel has cooked its golden goose? For the first time in many a moon, Uncanny X-Men is not Number one. Sales are slipping on all the X-Titles (with the exception of Wolverine). This is true of new issue sales as well. Is the comics buying public getting mutated out?

Looking at the figures it appears that readers are preferring single-character books to team books. Only time will tell what the story is. My best selling back issue is Spiderman #1 ($6-8) (I kid you not!), followed by X-Force #1 ($3-5)and X-Men #1 ($2.50-4.00), also in demand are Amazing Spiderman #361 ($6), #362 ($4) and Infinity Gauntlet #1 ($7.50). The most requested back issue is definitely Amazing Spiderman #361, but they are in short supply. The current issue of X-men is #8, and the X-men back issues are selling nowhere near as well as Spiderman was when it was on issue #8. A depressing trend. On a brighter note, mention should be made of the Incredible Hulk. Peter David's consistently fine efforts have reaped long-term benefits. Once a mediocre seller, this book is now #4. Not only that, it is also the #4 selling back issue for the last two years as well. There's a lesson here: in the long term, quality sells Recent Marvel back issues rate a 75 on the 100 scale. I've barely mentioned DC so far. And no wonder! They are barely selling! As stated previously, DC back issues are selling the worst they ever have. The best selling DCs are Green Lantern (#23/12-22 CPTS) and Batman (#34, 9-6 CPTs). DCs are 17 on a 100 scale. Dark Horse is the top Alternate back issue seller, far and away. Valiant seems to be fading somewhat. Maybe all the Valiant readers have finally completed their sets. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are doing well, for an alternate, but they seem to be fading as well. As far as everyone else, the less said, the better. Dark Horse back issues are a 27, Valiant a 17, and everyone else a 5.

SILVER AGE - Another retailer put it succinctly: "I sell a lot of back issues in the 4-10 dollar range, but nothing over, say $25. People just don't have the money." And it's true. Collecting expensive books is a luxury, and when cash is tight, the luxuries are the first to go. While it's true that new comics are not exactly a necessity, they are entertainment, which people definitely need. Also, it is better to buy comics new than have to pay the premium for buying them as back issues. We have sold some silver Age in small amounts: early Conans, early Captain America (NOT super-expensive ones like #100, though) and Hulk. I have set up some boxes where I am selling lower-grade Silver Age books for dirt cheap prices (generally $1-$3) and those are doing well, but other than that, forget it. Silver Age, generally is at about a 14. DC Silver Age is slightly lower.

That' s it from New York's Capital District. So, until Wolverine sends Sabretooth a Father's Day card, MAKE MINE OVERSTREET!

COLLECTORS WORLD

Rick Frogge, Todd Faulkner
5751 Nolensville Road
Nashville, TN 37211
615/ 333-9458

Hello from everyone at Collectors World. The year so far has been very prosperous and the hobby seems to be doing very well. Much excitement has been generated in the comics industry so far this year, and it looks like there is much in store before year end! Well, let's get to it.

MARVEL BACK ISSUES - Marvel leads the pack in back issue sales, as always. The Spider-books and the X-books are our top selling back issues, and Spidey's 30th anniversary has caused the already high sales to skyrocket. So far, this has been the year of the spider. Uncanny X-Men back issues have also been flying out of the store. The new X-Men series has definitely revitalized sales in Uncanny. We used to move the issues from #250 up very quickly, but now all the back issue stuff from #1 up have been moving briskly. News of an upcoming animated series from Fox this fall hasn't hurt this trend, either. Hulk back issue sales are also up, probably due to the popularity of the David/Keown team on the book. #1 through #6 fly out of the store at Guide or above, as always. We also sell quite a bit of the Marvel pre-superhero stuff. We are glad the collectors are seeing these issues as the classics that they are. We are still seeing steady sales in the 70's Lead Age comics, especially Ghost Rider, Hero For Hire, Defenders, Invaders, and Champions. Some recent sales are: Amazing Spiderman #1 VF with Marvel chupping - $4000; New Mutants #87 NM/M - $52; X-Men #266 M - $10; Amazing Spiderman #361 M - $5; Iron Man #55 FN - $60; Darkhawk #1 M - $10.

DC BACK ISSUES - Back issue sales in Silver Age DC are very good. Batman moves the quickest, especially the Penguin and Catwoman appearances (I wonder why?) which sell for over Guide in any grade. Green Lantern seems to be closing the gap. With the explosion of new Green Lantern titles, the back issues have definitely picked up. Flash and Superman also sell well in Silver Age back issues. The first Aquaman series has also picked up in back issue sales. DC is cool, however, in recent back issue sales. Some recent DC sales- Green Lantern #1 G-$135;Aquaman #1 FN-$90,Lois Lane #70 VG - $40; Adventure #300 VG - $100.

INDEPENDENT BACK ISSUES - Valiant is the word here. We cannot keep any Valiant back issues in stock, no matter how many we put out. Magnus and Solar are some of our most requested stuff, followed closely by X-O and Harbinger. Dark Horse Aliens and Predator books are also selling well in back issues, but cannot match the Valiants. The other independents are pretty dead, with the exception of Faust. Some recent independent sales - Faust #1 (1st print) M - $20; Magnus #1 M - $10; X-O #1 M $15; Aliens #1 (1st) M - $30; Shadowman #1 M - $5.

NEW MARVELS - Marvel is #1 here also. Spidey, X-Men and, surprisingly, Darkhawk are red hot. Hulk, New Warriors, Wolverine, Ghost Rider, and Punisher are also in the upper tiers. The first issue of Silver Sable sold well, but part of that was the gimmick cover. Nomad is also selling well. Deaths Head sold beyond anyone's wildest imagination. The Spidey hologram covers and Hulk metallic were also in high demand.

NEW DC - In spite of attempts to generate interest in new stuff, DC is generally slow. Batman and Sandman sell well, and the Ray miniseries was a big seller, but the rest of the titles are middle tier sellers at best. Lobo's Back is off to a good start, but the major problem here is that we can't sell the comic to kids, who seem to be interested in the character. The new Justice League does not seem to have done much for those titles flagging sales. Generally, DC seems to be in a slump.

NEW INDEPENDENT - As in back issues, Valiant is red hot! They seem to be gaining new readers every day. Unity is eagerly anticipated. Archer And Armstrong #1 is selling very well, and we expect Eternal Warrior to sell equally well. Valiant seems to be off to a good start. Dark Horse is selling well with Aliens: Hive series and with Star Wars: Dark Empire. Image scored a solid hit with Youngblood #1, but will they be able to maintain this level of success in the future? Now does OK with Married With Children, but Green Hornet and related series have slowed way down. Interest in the Tick is dropping as NEC continues its policy of putting out an issue every 9 months. Faust continues to sell well, and the Crow collected issues from Tundra did really well. Interest in Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is way down.

Well, I've rambled on quite enough. I'll just sign off by saying Happy Birthday, Spidey. Thanks for 30 years of great adventure! Cheers!

Dedicated to the memory of

WILLIAM M. GAINES

Comics Greatest Genius

BOARD OF SPECIAL ADVISORS

The following pages list those retailers who helped make this issue of the Update possible. Each advisor wrote a market report, updated prices and new issues, and corrected errors. Although we were limited to the number of Market Reports we could print, each and every report was a tribute to its writer and was important to our research. The help of these fine people is deeply appreciated.

SOUTHWEST

Joe Dungan/Rick Sambucini
Collector's Asylum
12311 Nacogdoches Ste. 104
San Antonio, TX 78217

512-590-6310

MIDWEST

William A. Christensen/Mark Seifert
Comic Cavalcade
502 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820

217-384-2211

NORTH

Bill Townsend
Electric City Comics
1704 VanVranken Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12308

SOUTH

J. Keith Contarino
3660 Luther Hall Road
Powder Springs, GA 30073

SOUTHWEST

Rich Conley
Heroes & Fantasies
742 Barchester
San Antonio, TX 78216

1-512-341-7133

NORTHWEST

Michael L. Halbleib/Cynthia Boyd
Paladin Comics
600 15th St. So.
Great Falls, MT 59405

1-406-771-1535

SOUTH

Michael Goldstein/John Chruscinski
Robert Prince
Tropic Comics
313 S. State Road 7
Plantation, FL 33317

305-587-8878

NORTH

Dr. Roger Smyth
Funny Business
656 Amsterdam Ave.
NYC, NY 10025

1-212-799-9477

SOUTHEAST

Cory Rayborn/Rick Wilson
Rick's Dugout
117 West White Dr.
Archdale, NC 27263

BOARD OF SPECIAL ADVISORS

NORTHEAST

MACX Comics
68 Washington St.
Middletown, CT 06457

203-344-8800

WEST COAST

Joe Field
Flying Colors Comics
2980 Treat Boulevard
Concord, CA 94518

415-825-5410

NORTHEAST

Patrick Donley
Time Tunnel Collectibles
1001 Castle Shannon Blvd.
Castle Shannon, PA 15234

412-531-8833

CANADA

Bruno Andreacchi
B.A.'s Nostalgia Land
242 Piccadilly Street
London, ONT N6A 1S4

SOUTHEAST

Rick Frogge/Todd Faulkner
Collectors World
5751 Nolensville Road
Nashville, TN 37130

615-333-9458

WEST COAST

Mike McCulloch
Comics and Comix, Inc.
2461 Telegraph Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704

510-845-4091

MIDWEST

Gary Colabuono
Moondog's
1201 Oakton St. Suite 1
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

708- 806-6060
Fax: 708-806-6177

MIDWEST

Richard & Wayne Gifford
Rich's Comic Shoppe
2441 North Verity Pkwy.
Middletown, OH 45042

WEST COAST

Kelli Stanley/Tana Hall
The Funny Papers
5947 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94121

1-415-752-1914

WEST COAST

Timothy Riley
Superior Comics
1630 Superior Ave.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

THE OVERSTREET UPDATE

ABC WARRIORS, THE Reehavy/Quality - * (1.88-c)
ABYSS, THE Dark Horse - ***
AC ANNUAL AC Comics - * (3.86-c)
ACE COMICS PRESENTS Ace Comics - *
ACE OF SPADES Mooknight/nd - * (2.86-c)
ACES Aces Press (Eclipse) - *
ACK THE BARBARIAN Innovation - *

ACTION COMICS (Weekly #601-642)
Dec., 1954- Present
DC Comics
1- Reprint, 1988, 50¢-c .50
261- Last pre-code issue 150 00
262-220 125 00
221-249 100 00
341, 343-251 75 00
242- Origin & 1st app. Brainiac 500 00 H
252- Origin & 1st app. Supergirl; re-intro of Metallo, the 2nd appearance of the Superboy 45 550 00 + H
253- 2nd app Supergirl 100 00 H
254- 1st meeting Of Bizarro & Superman 115 00 H
255- 1st Bizarro Lois Lane 80 00
256-261 50 00
262, 264-266, 268-270 38 00
263- Origin Bizarro World 50 00 H
267- 3rd Legion app 250 00 H
271-275, 277-282, 282-Last 10¢ 34 00
276- 8th Legion app 66 00
283- Legion Of Super-Villains app 44 00
284- Mon-El app 44 00
285- 12th Legion app 44 00
286-290 22 00
291, 292, 294-299 15 00
293- Origin Comet 33 00
300- 25¢ 17 00
301-308, 310-320 10 00
309- Legion app. 11 00
321-333, 335-340 7 00
334- Giant (G-20) 9 00
341-346, 348-359 5 00
354- Bizarro app. 3 00
360- Giant (G-33), 360- Giant (G-45) 9 00
361-372, 374-380 4 00
373- Giant (G-57) 7 50
381-424 2 00
425- Adams art 2 00
426-436, 438, 439 1 50
437, 443- 100 page giants 2 00
440- 1st Grell art on Green Arrow 4 00
441- Grell art on Green Arrow 2 50
442, 444-499 1 50
500- Superman life story 1 20
501-551, 554-557 1 00
552, 553- Animal Man C&S 6 00
583- Aain Moore 7 00
554- Byrne/Austin 1 50
555-559, 568- 1st app. Checkmate 1 00
600- (2.00) 3 00
601-642 Weekly issues (1.50, 48 pgs.), 611-614, Cat-Woman stories; 613-615, Nightwing stories 1 50
643- Monthly begins, Perez c/a, scripts 1 50
644-649, 651-661, 663-666, 668-679 644- Perez begins 679- Last 1.00-c 1 00
650- Double size, 1.50-c 1 50
652- Superman reveals id to Lois Lane, story cont. in Superman 53 2 50
667- (1.75-c, 52 pgs.) 1 80
Annual 1 ('87) Arthur Adams art, Batman app. 6 00
Annual 2 ('89, 1.75-c, Perez c/a) 2 00
Annual 3 ('91, 68 pgs. /2.00-c) 2 00
Title Value: 3073 50

ACTION FORCE Marvel Comics Ltd. (British) - *

ADAM STRANGE (See Showcase 17, Mystery In Space 83 1990-No 3, 1990 (2 95-c, color, mini-series, 52 pgs.)
DC Comics
Book 1-3 4 00
Title Value 12 00

ADDAMS FAMILY (TV Cartoon)
Oct, 1974-No 3, Apr. 1975 (Hanna Barbera)
Gold Key
1 20 00 + H
2, 3 12 00 H
Title Value: 44 00

ADOLESCENT RADIOACTIVE BLACK BELT HAMSTERS Comic Castle/Eclipse Comics - *

ADVANCED DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
Dec. 1988-No. 36, Apr., 1992 (1 25/1 75-c, color)
DC Comics
1 9 00 -
2 6 00 -
3 4 00 -
4-10 2 50
11-15 1 70
16-23 1 50
24-36 24-1 75-c begins 1 50
Annual 1 (1990, 3 95-c) 4 00
Title Value: 91 90

ADVENTURE COMICS
No. 206, 1955 - No. 503, Sept. '83
National Periodical Publications/DC Comics
206 245 00 +
291-299 175 00 +
215- 1st app. Krypto 1300 00 + H
211-213, 215-220 140 00 +
214- 2nd app Krypto 150 00 + H
221-246 125 00 +
247- 1st app. Legion Of Super Heroes 2000 00 + H
248-252, 254, 255 85 00 +
253- Superboy/Robin first meet 100 00 + H
256- Origin Green Arrow 290 00 + H
257-259 75 00
260- 1st Silver Age origin of Aquaman (5/59) 750 00 +
300 00 + H
261-288, 288, 270 56 00
287-2nd Legion Of Super-Heroes 500 00
289- Intro Aqualad 100 00 H
271- Origin Luther retold 115 00 H
272-274, 276-280 276- 3rd Mera ID 40 00
275- Origin Superman/Batman team retold 70 00 H
281, 284, 287-289 285-Bizarro cover 35 00
282- 5th Legion app 50 00
283- Intro Phantom Zone 52 00
285- 1st Bizarro World story in Adv 50 00
286- 1st Bizarro Mxyzptlk 50 00
290- 8th Legion app., last 10¢ issue 80 00
291, 292, 295-297 295- Bizarro-c 50 00
293- 13th Legion app. 65 00
294- 1st Bizarro M. Monroe, Pres. Kennedy; Bizarro cover 52 00 H
298- 1st Gold Kryptonite (8/62) 30 00
300- Legion series begins (3/62) 250 00 +
301- Origin Bouncing Boy 75 00
302-305 45 00
306-310 35 00
311-320 25 00
321- Intro Time Trapper 20 00
322-330, 327- Intro Tyber Wolf in Legion 14 00
331-340 15 00
341- Tornado Girl becomes Duo Damsel 10 00
342-345, 347, 350, 351 8 00
348, 346, 349 8 00
352, 354-360 7 00
353- Death of Ferro Lad in Legion 11 00
361-366, 368, 369 6 00
365, 367, 371, 372 6 00
373, 374, 376-382, 380- Last Legion in Adventure Comics 5 00
375- Intro Quantum Queen 6 00
381-389, 391-400 1 50
389- (69 pg. giant G-61), 403- (68 pg. Giant G-81) 3 00
401, 402, 404-410 52 pg. issues 1 50
411, 413, 418, 419 52 pg. issues 1 00
412- Reprint origin & 1st app. Animal Man from Strange Adv #180 6 00
414- R- 2nd Animal Man from Str. Adv #184 4 00
415, 420 - Animal Man reprints 2 00
416- Giant DC-10 Q& A 1 20
417- Monroe Vigilante, Frazetta Shining Knight reprints Adv 161 1 20
421-424 1 00
425- New look begins 1 50
426-434, 435- Mike Grell's "st comic book w/ 1 00
459-460, 463-466 1 00
461, 462- Death of Earth II Batman 4 00
467-469- Last comic-size iss 1 00
491-499 491-100 pg digests begin 1 20
500- All Legion reprints 1 20
501-503- Golden Age reprints 1 20
Title Value: 15348 90

ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND Calliber - * (2.50-c)

ADVENTURERS, THE
August, 1986-1990 (1.50, B&W)
Arcade/Adventure Pub.
1- Peter Hsu 4 00
1- Cover variant, limited edition 8 00
1- 2nd Print (1986), 1st app. Elf Warrior 2 50
2, 3 2 00
3- (84, 12/86) Origin 2 00
4-16 1 60
Book II Regular Edition No 1 1 60
Book II Limited Edition No 1 1 60
Book II #2-3 2 30
Book II #1 (Col., '89, 2.25-c) - 8 2 30
Trade Paperback B&W, 7 93 6 40
Title Value 69 90

ADVENTURES IN THE MYSTWOOD Bleakthorne - *
ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN A+ Comics - * (2.50)
ADVENTURES OF BARON MUNCHAUSEN New - *
ADVENTURES OF BAYOU BILLY, THE Arohie Adventures
ADVENTURES OF B.O.C. Invasion - *

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sept., 1991-No. 4, Dec., 1991 (4 95-c, color, squarebound)
Marvel Comics
1- Embossed-c 5 50
2-4 Audio-ish(!) 3 00
Title Value 20 50

Action Comics #252, © DC

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN JACK, THE Fantagraphics B
ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN NEMO Rip Off Press - * (2.88-
ADVENTURES OF CHUK, THE White Wolf Comics - *
ADVENTURES OF CHRISSIE CLAUS, THE Hero Graphics
ADVENTURES OF DR. GRAVES, THE A+ Comics - * (2.50-
ADVENTURES OF LUTHER ARKWRIGHT, THE Valkyrie Pr

ADVENTURES OF REX THE WONDER DOG, THE
Jan-Feb, 1952-No 46, May-June, 1959, No 48, Nov-Dec, 195
National Periodical Publications
1-(Scarce)-Toth-a 450 00
2-(Scarce)-Toth-a 210 00
3-(Scarce)-Toth-a 165 00
4, 5 115 00
6-10 80 00
11-Atom Bomb-c/a 90 00
12-18 Last precode (1-2/53) 45 00
20-48 32 00
Title Value 2788 00

ADVENTURES OF RICK RAYGUN, THE Stop Dragon Com
ADVENTURES OF SLATE SKATE, THE Hot Shot Comics- *
ADVENTURES OF SPIDER-BOY, THE Ace Comics- *

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
(Formerly Superman)
Jan., 1987-Present
DC Comics
424 2 00
425-449, 449- Invasion 1 20
450-463, 465-479, 481-491 1 00
464- Lobo-c/p/a; prototype Lobo #1 4 00 +
480-(1.75-c, 52 pgs.) 1 80
Annual 1 ('87) 3 50
2 ('90, Lobo app.), Annual 3 ('91, 2 00-c, Armageddon 2001) 2 00
Title Value: 83 80

ADVENTURES OF THE FLY
(The Fly, No. 2; Fly Man No. 32-38)
Aug 1959-No 30, Oct 1964, No 31, May, 1965
Archie Publications, Radio Comics
1- Shield app., origin The Fly; S&K c/a 300 00 H
2- Williamson-a 165 00 H
3-Origin retold 110 00 H
4- S&K-c, Powell a Shield x-over 75 00 H
5-10 T- Black Hood app., 8, 9-Shield x-over 48 00 H
11-13, 15-20 20- Origin Flygirl retold 42 00 H
14-Intro & origin Flygirl 40 00
21-30 20 00
31- Black Hood, Shield, Comet app 22 00
Title Value 1452 00

ADVENTURES OF THE JAGUAR, THE
Sept., 1981-No 16, Nov 1983
Archie Publications (Radio Comics)
1- Origin & 1st app. The Jaguar 90 00
2, 3 3- Last 10¢ issue 50 00
4-8 Catgirl app 35 00
7-10 25 00
11-15, 13, 14 Catgirl, Black Hood app 20 00
Title Value 495 00

ADVENTURES OF THE OUTSIDERS, THE DC Comics - *
ADVENTURES OF THEOWN, THE Pyramid- *
ADVENTURES OF THE SUPER MARIO BROTHERS Valiant

ADVENTURES OF THE THING (Also see The Thing)
Apr., 1992-No 4, July, 1992 (1 25-c, color, mini-series)
Marvel Comics
1-Byrne (p/a/scripts-i/Marvel 2-in-1 #50 1 50 +
2-i/Marvel 2-In-1 #80 (Ghost Rider c/a 1 30
3, 4 1 30
Title Value 5 40

ADVENTURES OF VITAL MAN Cornerstone - * (2.00-c)
ADVENTURES OF ZOTI IN DIMENSION 10 1/2 Eclipse - *

ADVENTURES ON THE PLANET OF THE APES (Also see Planet of...)

Titles with an * are not listed in this Update can often be found in The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide.

NOTE: Titles marked with an * sell for up to over price.

THE COMIC BOOK COUNSELOR

Hello again update readers, welcome to issue #22. This month we received an "avalanche" of mail and I would like to thank you all who took the time and trouble to write. Our selection of letters for this issue hit on a number of very interesting topics as well as supplying some great collector information, so let's get started...

Dear Update,
Some information I'd like to share with you and your readers. *Jack O' Lantern's* first appearance in **Machine Man** #19 precedes *Hobgoblin's* first appearance in **Amazing Spider-Man** #238 by **two years.** *Machine Man's* final issue came out in February 1981. *Machine Man* was a slow seller and most people assumed that the final issue was #18 with the first appearance of *Alpha Flight*. I'm sure if someone took the time to investigate it would be found that there are far less copies compared to **Amazing Spider-Man** #238. *Jack O' Lantern's* first battle with *Spider-Man* is in **Peter Parker** #56. This issue came out in July 1981, but reads like a cross-over issue. It takes place immediately after *Machine Man's* battle with *Jack O' Lantern* making you assume they needed to re-introduce him since no one was aware of **Machine Man** #19. With Macendale (*Jack O' Lantern*) now taking on the guise of the *Hobgoblin*, one would think these two issues with his earliest appearances would carry some value. One final question has to deal with a different subject. **Starman** #28 with *Superman* is being sold by some dealers at 10 to $15. The Update lists the whole series at below cover price. Is there some significance with this book I don't know about? The Update is getting better and better with each new issue. Keep up the great work.

Richard M. Rizza, Massachusetts

Dear Richard,
Thanks for your info and support of the Update, it is much appreciated! I share your view regarding the value of Machine Man #19 and Peter Parker #56. Logic would suggest a higher value yet (as we both know) logic isn't always the driving force behind comic prices. As for Starman #28, I'm not aware of any special significance other than the one you mention. Can you help with this one Update readers?

Dear Update,
Before I begin I would like to applaud your guide, truly the "first and foremost comics price guide". Yours is the only authority for accurate values of comic books. I enjoy the new format, especially the picture guide for grading comics books; this section is very helpful when discussing comics over the phone with dealers. Another issue I would like to address is that of collectors solely motivated by the profit area of this hobby... this distresses me and, while I love to see that a comic I own has risen in value, I hope collectors understand comics are for reading first. Secondly, I question your answer to Minh-Dou Tran in which you told him he should **eventually** move his bagged Spider-Man #1 into Mylar, while I agree most comics should be kept in Mylar your guide states that the price on the bagged comics "is for still sealed only." Here is some information which I hope can help you improve your guide:
Silver Surfer Annual #1 contains 20 pages of Ron Lim pencils including pin-ups and two back-up stories, one of which leads up to the first in **Silver Surfer** #15. **Marvel Comics Presents** #85, in addition to containing a *Wolverine* story and the first regular art by the stupendous Sam Keith, it also has an eight page Liefeld *Beast* story. **Incredible Hulk** #350 doesn't have a 1.50 cover price, but a 75 cent one (ah, the good old days) and a *Thing/Hulk* battle. On page 2 of my brother's newsstand copy of **Spider-Man** #7, right across *Ghost Rider's* head it reads: *"I recently acquired a new game called "TANK". It was the best game ever. After I'd reached the highest level of play, a message appeared inviting me to contact the game's inventor for group participation. That idiot! He still hasn't learned to practice safe computer..."*. The last word is illegible, but appears to be "**sex**". It looks like Jim Novak's lettering, any suggestions? My direct sales copy doesn't have it, I hope the Xerox helps. I apologize for the length, but I hope this letter is helpful to you. Thank you for your time.

Will Chesser, Texas

Dear Will,
Thanks for your feedback and your point is well taken. I guess I hope people will realize that "eventually" can be a mighty long time. I will admit that a commercially bagged comic that is stored under absolutely ideal conditions will last just fine. It's the other 99% of the copies out there that I worry about. I'd like to hear what other collectors have to say on this issue. As for Spider-Man #7, wow! This will be an interesting topic for collectors for some time to come!

Dear Update,
Congratulations on another well compiled issue of Update. Your article on the Sotheby's auction and the interviews with the Kuberts were very interesting. I particularly found the interviews with the various artists informative. I was a little concerned after reading one of the letters in the Comic Book Counselor. In one of the responses, you recommended storing all comics in Mylar. I don't consider myself as owning a large collection, but every comic is accompanied by an acid-free backing board, double bagged with polypropylene, and stored in acid-free boxes. I would like my continually increasing collection to keep from degrading. How permanently safe are my comics? Thank you for your response and once again good work in putting together such an informative Update.

Timothy Lo, Vancouver, Canada

Dear Timothy,
I also felt Bob's discussion and analysis of the "The Big Auction" was great and I really enjoyed interviewing the Kuberts. As for the importance of Mylar, I lay awake at night contemplating this important question, not only regarding the comics that you and I have, but also the preservation of comics for posterity. Most of the experts I have spoken with suggest that the number one variable of paper preservation is the environment of storage. (i.e. cool, stable temperatures, protection from the sun and ultraviolet light, natures bleaching agents, and, last but not least, reduced oxygen contact). I personally can't afford the many thousands of dollars it would take to set up a scientifically perfect storage environment, but I can take steps to maximize the life of my precious paper collectibles. There is presently a great deal of controversy about the degrading effects of polypropylene (and polyethylene). One side says they "contain plasticizers that contribute to increased acid production in paper".

The other side claims that it "works just fine if stored properly and is an inexpensive method affordable to all". So I can only share with you my personal view at this time. Do what you can that is within your own budgetary constraints (sounds like you are doing a good job). I like Mylar and I feel it's the best product out there. But it does you no good if you can't afford it, and regrettably it can be expensive. The acid free backing boards you mentioned also concern me, only because there are so many backing boards out there that are not really all that safe. It would behoove any serious collector to ask a lot of questions, read a lot of literature, and generally do their homework on this topic. Eventually conclusive scientific research will be done, and we will all know once and for all. I, for one, can hardly wait!

Dear Update,
If some of the pages in a brand new comic book are flawed, is the grade Mint or Near Mint?

Tom Woods, Pennsylvania

Dear Tom,
It depends on the type and severity of the flaw, and the grade could be even lower than NM. Ask other dealers and collectors in your area or check out the new Overstreet Comic Book Grading Guide. It may provide you with some additional insights that will help you grade the comic in question.

Dear Update,
I just want to briefly thank you for your response to my letter that I wrote to the Update and also thank you for the
material you sent me. Your typewritten response I received was not one of those same mass-produced replies that most other companies send to just about everyone that writes in. Your reply was personal to the comments in my letter. The fanzines on restoration were very informative and helpful (which I think was your goal). I should also like to point out to you that your and Bob Overstreet's new grading book includes fantastic articles on restoration. The book in itself was well-written.

Brian Haberman, New Jersey

Dear Brian,
It was a pleasure and thanks for your nice comments.

Dear Update,
I am a Murphy Anderson fan and I especially love his work on the *Atomic Knights* strip in **Strange Adventures**. I noticed that you list **Strange Adventures** #119 as the third *Atomic Knights*. I have a copy of #119 and I can find no *Atomic Knights* in it! Yet my copy of #120 does have *Atomic Knights*. Can you help me solve the mystery? Also why isn't **Strange Adventures** #117 considered a more important issue? I feel it is fabulous. I looked a very long time to find my copy and I consider it a rather scarce issue! One other thing, I read the article you wrote with Pat S. Calhoun on Atlas and pre-hero Marvel that was published in the Overstreet Annual Price Guide. I wanted to say that it was extremely informative and I learned a great deal about "Marvel before Marvel". Any chance for an article on the *Atomic Knights*? A loyal reader...

Greg McPartlin, Indiana

Dear Greg,
Being an ardent *Atomic Knights* fan myself, I know the answer to this one off the top of my head (so to speak). The original 15 *Atomic Knights* stories by Murphy Anderson appeared in Strange Adventure #s 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132, 135, 138, 141, 144, 147, 150, 153, 156, and 160. The error in the Strange Adventures listing should be corrected in this issue of the Update. Not only that, but your copy of Strange Adventure #120 is really the 2nd *Atomic Knights*! Thanks also to Mick Rabin and Alan Dulfon for pointing this out.

Dear Update,
I would like to know what Mylar is, and where I could order, or buy some. Secondly, I would like to know what those "little teeth or hole marks" are on the inside bottom pages of some comic books and if they reduce the value of the comics. Thirdly, why doesn't your update list all comics and prices. Fourth, I think your updates should have card prices in the back, (Marvel Universe, etc.). Fifth, I would like to know where I could order "MINT" condition comics, (unopened, not newsstand issues, prestige). Finally, I want to know the qualifications and education needed to become a famous comic book artist like, (Rob Liefeld, Jim Lee, John Romita Jr.)... So, until Comic books go out of existence, make mine Update.

Kevin Karr, Marvel collector extraordinaire, Canada (age 14)

Dear Kevin,
Whew...lotsa questions. (1) Mylar is an inert, very hard and durable plastic used to make many modern products including some paper preservation products (Mylar is a trademarked name owned by the DuPont Co). Check your local comic shop, I'm sure they either carry Mylar preservation products or know where to order them. (2) Those "little teeth or hole marks" at the bottom of some pages are known as "Grabber Perfs" or newsprint perforations. They are caused by serrated rollers during the paper manufacturing process and even sometimes by certain older binderies (see "perforations" on page 297 of the Overstreet Grading Guide). (3) Not all comics have market value. Titles are added as market trends dictate. (4) For now we'll stay with what we know best, comic books! (5) Check with your local dealer. Maybe he/she can help you obtain perfect copies. (Finally) It takes hard work, talent, inspiration, creativity, and a bit of luck! Good luck to you Kevin, and thanks for reading the Update.

Dear Update,
I'll start by saying that this price guide is probably the best anywhere. Your prices are the most realistic of the other guides that I've read. I just started collecting about a year ago and am now obsessed with this hobby, I love it! Your Update and especially your annual guide are very helpful and informative to a relative new-comer to the field. I think the Market Reports are great. I would like to see maybe even two or three more an issue. There is one thing I disagree with however. Although I'm probably alone in this thought, I feel that raw grade comics are important too. Everyone, everywhere I go is obsessed with high grade. I see the importance of this to the investor, but to a collector like myself, a low grade makes those hard to afford comics affordable. Some people like to read for enjoyment, especially the older stuff, but can't get a hold of any due to the high price. (For example, no way could I afford $700 for a Daredevil #1 in NM, But I got it for $60 in G) Granted, the resale potential is much lower, but I don't intend to sell any of my comics anyway. So all you dealers complaining that high grade is in demand and no one on Earth wants low grade, take heart, I'm here! I also have a few questions. I read you should change the plastic covers on your collection, how often should you do this and should you also change the backing boards? Also, is it safe to store your comics in a metal filing cabinet? Are there any harmful acids or anything? Thanks for your time and keep up the good work. You guys do great

stuff ! !

Andrew Hoffman, Ohio

Dear Andrew,
You are not alone! Many, many, many serious collectors (including yours truly) collect lower grade books! It doesn't mean we don't appreciate the beauty of higher grade material, but some comics (especially 1930s-1950s) can't be found in high grades. And when they are offered, many collectors just can't afford them. So take heart collectors of mid to low grade stuff, think of all the money you're saving and how much more you're able to buy. Regarding one of your other questions, metal filing cabinets are excellent storage locations. The metal moderates temperature somewhat and they hold a lot of books. Watch out though, for oil and grease! Some metal storage cabinets have lubricants that can be potentially dangerous to your comics. Rust may also be a concern. Just examine the inside (and underside) of the drawers before placing comics in them.

Dear Update,
As an avid Silver Age Marvel collector, I would like to mention a few occurrences which I feel worthy of note; **Tales of Suspense** #56 features a brief *Avengers* x-over and is dated 8/64. This would be their 2nd x-over. **Journey Into Mystery** #109 features an early *X-Men* cameo behind the scenes on panels 5 and 6 of page 16. Dated 10/64, this would be their 3rd x-over chronologically. **Iron Man** #9 does not feature an actual *Hulk* appearance. The "Green Goliath" in question in this issue is an android. **Tales of Suspense** #80 and **Tales to Astonish** #82 features Marvel's first story continuation effort between two different titles; both issues are needed for the complete *Iron Man* vs. *Sub-Mariner* story. *Iron Man* also fought the *Sub-Mariner* in **Iron Man** #25. The first appearance of the Crimson Dynamo was in **Tales of Suspense** #46, not **Tales to Astonish** #46 as is listed in the annual Overstreet Price Guide. **Fantastic Four** #49 featured the first appearance of Marvel's first character called *"The Punisher"*, a servant of *Galactus*. There is a *Champions* x-over (minus *Ghost Rider*) in **Avengers** #163. And finally, a question; Did Steve Ditko actually contribute artwork to **Incredible Hulk** #2, or did he simply do the inking? The only listed credits I can locate in the book are the writer and artist "Stan Lee & J. Kirby", which is listed at the beginning of each chapter of the *Hulk* story. Well, that's it for now. And as always, congratulations on the nation's ONLY real price guide for comics.

Lynn Potter, Tennessee

Dear Lynn,
Thanks for the great information! Although I can find no reference to support my contention, upon looking at my copy of Hulk #2 I'd say that it sure looks like Ditko did more than just ink in a number of panels. Some inkers are true to the pencilers style and some "bury" the penciler. It looks to me like Ditko's inking style is some where in-between. Maybe some Marvel/Ditko art experts could help us out on this one.

Dear Update,
While the controversy rages on about whose pure guide reflects truer prices, one thing is obvious ... you make the least mistakes of anyone in "the biz." So, I'm letting you know that as a good little reader, I found "a beaut"...You list #48 **Web of Spider-Man** as being worth more than **Spectacular Spider-Man** #147, when #147 is the first appearance of the *New Demonic Hobgoblin* ... **Web of Spider-Man** is merely a rehash of events in this issue. Also "**Web**" came out a month later ... since this is a key event for a very popular villain (who incidentally is now officially called *"Demo Goblin"* as of **Web** #66) ... Please check these issues. You'll find I'm right. Unlike so many collectors today, I read these books! Thanks.

Joseph Thunderhorse, Florida

Dear Joseph,
You mean you actually (gulp, cough, choke, wheeze) read 'em??? (chuckle). Thanks for the info, it was "a beaut!".

Dear Update,
Since there is a Golden Age, and a Silver Age, when will there be a Bronze Age? Please put this letter in Update #22. Thank you.

John Lee, California

Dear John,
Although not in wide usage by collectors, some use the term "Bronze Age" to describe comics of the 1970s. After discussing this topic with a number of prominent comic book historians, most agree with the following timeline of comic book history.
1933-1938: Pre-Golden Age
1938-1945: Golden Age
1945-1949: Post-Golden Age
1950-1956: Pre-Silver Age
1956-1969: Silver Age

Dear Update,
I am a relatively new collector, and diehard *Punisher* fan, and I have a few questions. Whenever I read the counselor section, everyone talks about Silver and Golden Age comics. What are they? How can you tell a good investment in an old comic? I saw a **Punisher War Journal** #1 signed by Jim Lee, at a convention, but he wanted almost five times as much as it normally goes ($95). Should I have bought it or not? I often see ads for "100 comics from the 1980's, for just $25", is this some sort of scam? Well that's all of 'em, and thanx.

Eric Scheel, California

Dear Erik,
See the above letter for the dates of the Golden Age and Silver Age. Signed comics continue to be an area of controversy. Some argue that comic collectors want autographed copies the same way book collectors want signed editions. Another group of equally serious collectors take the position that the signature actually "defaces" the comic and therefore reduces its condition. And be sure that this argument is not going to go away in the near future. It is impossible to set up a standard regarding signed copies because the fame of artists is often episodic and always an issue of personal preference. You can answer your own question by asking another. "Is a signed copy of Punisher War Journal #1 worth $95 to me?". You are really the only one who knows. As for the "100 comics from the 1980s for just $25", I think that they are a great opportunity to get a whole lot of reading for very little money as long as you are not expecting to buy them as an investment. Call ahead and talk with the dealer and ask about the comics. A forthright dealer will be happy to discuss it with you. Good luck and let me know if you were satisfied with the comics. I might like to order a few myself at that price.

Dear Update,
Just thought you'd like to know that there is an eight-panel *Punisher* cameo in the *Cloak and Dagger* section of **Strange Tales**, Volume II, Number 12. Although short, it does explain why he appears in the next two issues. Also, I think I have most all appearances of *Dr. Strange*. Do you have any idea how I can find an index? I'd like to be sure. Meanwhile, keep up the good work! Yours is the

first section I turn to when I buy the Guide.

John Vile, Alabama

Dear John,
Thanks for writing! I've personally not seen a complete *Dr. Strange* index, maybe some Update readers can help us locate one. You might try contacting J. Keith Contarino or Sean Linkenback. Both are well known experts on Dr. Strange as well as Update Advisors. Maybe we can ask them to help us out with a *Dr. Strange* checklist that could be published in an upcoming issue. How 'bout it Keith and Sean?

Dear Update,
First off, I'd like to thank you for your dedication to the many collectors north and south of the Canada/US. border. Also, your new grading system (in my opinion) will be a benefit to the collectors in helping to identify certain defects in a comic that new collectors may overlook. Thank you. I've been collecting comics for only two years, but have almost three to four thousand comics (new and old) in this time. Now, concerning the Robin II mini series, I have multiple copies of singles and collector sets (including two Deluxe Sets). In collector set number 2, I have found one set has two holograms and another one has three holograms and I'm wondering if this is rare and what will it do to the pricing of these sets. Will they go up or will they go down in price? I'm curious for I've never seen this before or since. Thank you.

Ron Toule, Ontario, Canada

Dear Ron,
I'm not aware of a difference in rarity, but hey…three holograms sounds better than two any day!

Dear Update,
I recently bought an Uncanny X-Men #280 with a gold cover. I had it for a month before I bagged it and put it in my box. While I was bagging it, I happened to open it up, and to my surprise discovered it had two covers. They were the same covers, just stapled on together. What I was wondering was if you have heard of any other incidences of this, and, if you have, does this increase the value? Thank you.

Brad Dalbec, Wisconsin

Dear Brad,
Good question. It happens at the bindery when two or more cover signatures "stick" together in the stack and stay together as they travel through the stitcher (stapler). The result is a "Multiple Cover Copy" as they are more accurately described. For years, old time collectors loved these oddities because the outer cover took all the abuse and kept the inner cover like new. A growing number of collectors are searching out "double covers" and although many view them as merely a novelty and will not buy them, a few seek them out and will pay a premium for them. Make no mistake about it, they are much more scarce than their single cover cousins.

Dear Update,
I have followed your guide for many years. During the last two years I have enjoyed reading the *Warlock/Captain Marvel/ Thanos* sagas but there are some errors I would like to correct. *Warlock* originally died in **Warlock** #11, an issue where *Warlock* kills himself to prevent his soul from becoming *Magnus*. **Strange Tales** #179 is the introduction of *Pip*, and **Strange Tales** #180 is the first appearance of *Gamora*. *Warlock's* real first actual death is **Hulk** #178 (July '74) not **Avengers Annual #7** (1977). The *Warlock's* rebirth is **Hulk** #179 (Aug. '74). *Warlock* makes a special cover and story appearance in **Marvel Team-Up** #55. *Thanos* makes an un-noted appearance in **Iron Man** #88, "The Blood Brothers." The story is a recap of **Iron Man** #55. *Thanos* also makes another appearance in **Captain Marvel** #57. *Captain Marvel* is *Nova* changed by *Thanos'* doing (explanation shown in full)….One question how come no one has recognized **Eternals** #14 and #15 (the cosmic powered *Hulk*) when cosmic powered *Spidey* (Spec. **Spidey** #158) is worth so much? I hope you print this letter.

Justin Santoro, Ontario, Canada

Dear Justin,
Spider-Man is of course a more popular character and therefore creates more demand which the market reflects. Your point, however, is a good one. Thanks for being a loyal reader and for the great info as well.

Dear Update,
I've been collecting comic books for roughly five to seven years and, compared to all my friends, my collection is superb, but it is nothing compared to a store's collection or when compared to a serious adult's collection it is most likely nothing. I do however, have four comic boxes stuffed full. I own well over fifteen graphic novels. So to get right to the point, I really have no place to store them, but I don't want to stop collecting. So my question is, what do you suggest doing in order to keep my comics in a safe place? Now, please do not suggest to get rid of some of my items, because all of my things are of value. Even though I may only be thirteen years of age, I have a lot of old antiques, I guess you could say, so I have to refuse anyone who suggests it. Update is the best!!!

Brendon Bukalski, Illinois

Dear Brendon,
Comic book storage is the bane of all collectors. The most cost and space efficient systems I have seen are simple plywood shelves that you can build yourself. I like placing them in closets, if space permits. I also encourage you to check out any local schools that may offer an industrial arts or woodworking class. It's a good way to get a little help and also many programs offer the plywood and other required building materials at a discounted rate. Another option is to get rid of some of your "other stuff" and keep your comics. Please know that every single collector faces this same challenge. Good luck and let me know how you solve the problem. Maybe we could share it in a future Update. Also, if any of you readers out there have some possible (and affordable) solutions for this universal problem, write and let us know your suggestions.

Dear Update,
I really enjoyed the cover of your new price guide. … Also, could you tell me how you would grade a NM book with purple distributors ink along the top and side edge of the interior paper? Your guide is the industry's best.

Richard Bolton, Manitoba, Canada

Dear Richard,
Thanks for the feedback on the cover, I like it too! In the glossary on page 294 of the Overstreet Grading Guide it says "Distributor Stripes" are not a defect. It is important to note, however, that a few collectors find them esthetically unacceptable. I, on the other hand rather like them. They let me know the comic was actually distributed through the system, and that means something to me personally. Certainly distributor stripes that interfere with interior art and/or text would not be OK.

That's all the letters we have space for this time… thanks for reading and see you next issue!